

Lawson's big spending hints at early poll

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor. Big increases in the Government's spending plans and a buoyant economic outlook were announced yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson.

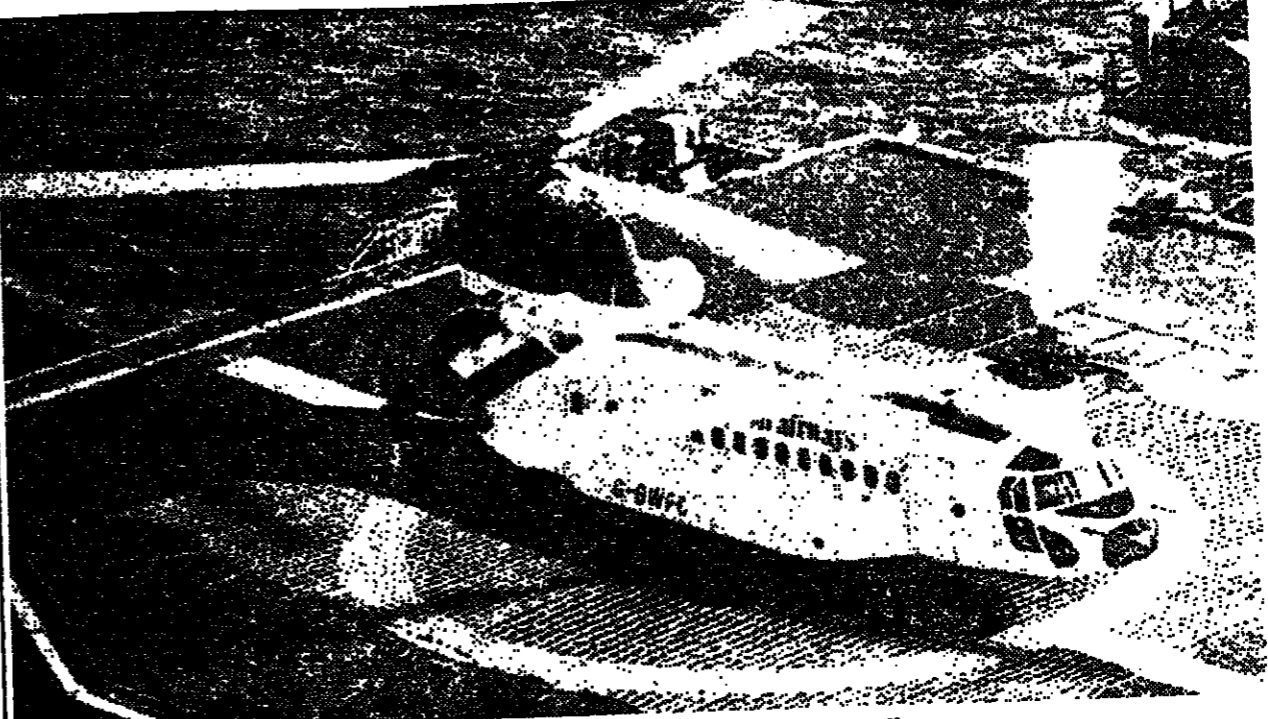
THE MAIN POINTS
Public spending plans for next year to total £148.6bn, £4.7bn more than announced at the time of the Budget.
Local authorities get an extra £4bn, partly to take account of planned spending and partly to increase government aid.

U-turn delights Tory wets

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government yesterday ran up the surrender flag in the face of demands from spending ministers which it had become politically impossible to refuse.

45 men killed in Britain's worst helicopter disaster

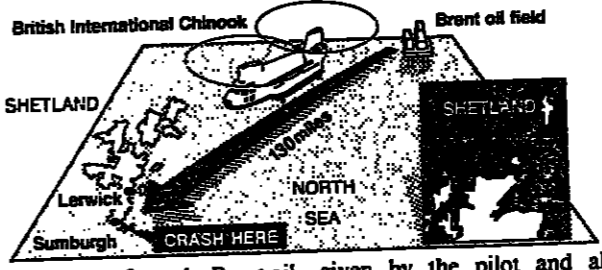


The doomed helicopter in its former British Airways livery.

Crash without warning

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Forty-five men died yesterday in Britain's worst helicopter disaster. A Boeing 234 twin rotor helicopter smashed without warning into the sea two miles off Sumburgh in Shetland and sank within minutes.



British International Chinook. Brent oil field. Sumburgh. CRASH HERE. The crew change from the Brent oil platform in the North Sea to Shetland, a duty it was due to perform three times.

Survivors owe lives to chance

The two known survivors of Britain's worst helicopter crash owe their lives to a chance in a million coincidence. Captain Gordon Mitchell, a coastguard helicopter pilot, was on a routine patrol when he spotted what he thought was either a fishing boat or an oil slick in the water.

Aviation minister rushes to scene

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, promised in the Commons a thorough inquiry into the cause of the Chinook helicopter crash.

In a statement, Mr Moore said an investigation team had already left for the scene, with the Aviation Minister, Mr Michael Spicer.

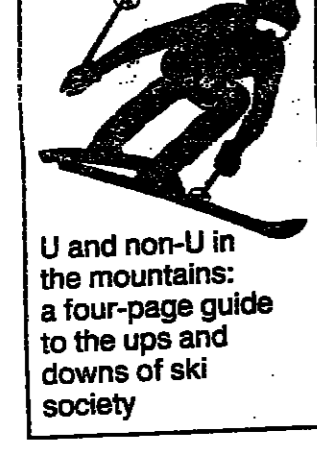
Emergency inquiry into ways to curb Aids

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter. An emergency parliamentary inquiry has been launched into the growing Aids crisis.

The inquiry will question ministers and leading health experts, and is to examine even the most unpalatable options for containing the disease. These include screening visitors from Aids-affected countries, the strict physical isolation of Aids victims and carriers, making Aids a notifiable disease, and issuing identity cards to Aids carriers.

Tomorrow

Slopes to be seen on



U and non-U in the mountains: a four-page guide to the ups and downs of ski society

Portfolio

Yesterday's £8,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner on Wednesday, was won by Mrs Mavis Johnson, of Wollaton, Nottingham. Details, page 3.

TIMES BUSINESS

Ford rejected. The Italian state-controlled company, Finmeccanica, has accepted a takeover offer by Fiat for Alfa Romeo, turning down a bid by Ford Motor of America. Page 21

Banks lag. British banks have one of the least developed payments systems in Europe because of the lack of investment in technology. Page 21

TIMES SPORT

ITV tackled. ITV's plans to televise live a top Italian League football match on Sunday have been thwarted following the Football Association's decision to ban coverage of foreign league games during the English season. Page 34

Pound up in hope of high rates

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound reacted favourably to the Chancellor's statement, buoyed by the expectation that the Government's decision to boost public spending would keep interest rates high.



Times ban ended by 2 councils

By Staff Reporters. Two of the three Labour-controlled councils ordered by the High Court on Wednesday to end their banning from public libraries of The Times and other News International titles moved to comply with the order yesterday, but the third is delaying obeying the instruction until after the weekend at least.

The London boroughs of Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham gave instructions to council officers yesterday to restore the banned papers to their libraries.

Mr Frank Nixon, the Chief Executive of Camden, said: "We shall comply with the court order and the necessary arrangements are being made now. The papers will be available again within the next day or so."

A spokesman for Councillor Gordon Prentice, Labour leader of Hammersmith and Fulham, said: "We shall be considering the court's order."

Russia accuses US of arms 'retreat'

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Vienna

The Vienna follow-up to the Reykjavik summit ended yesterday without progress after five hours of talks during two meetings between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, failed to clear up the main obstacles.

Mr Shevardnadze said the talks "left a bitter taste" and accused the Americans of "a complete retreat from the high ground reached in Iceland".

Judge jails rape victim for contempt

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An alleged rape victim was jailed for a day yesterday by a judge at the Central Criminal Court after she refused to give evidence at a trial.

The woman, a chambermaid from Northolt, Middlesex, was arrested after she told police she was too frightened to speak out at the trial of a man, aged 27, from Southall, West London, charged with rape and other offences.

Judge jails rape victim for contempt

The judge was "not fit" to sit on the bench and should be removed.

The National Association of Victims Support Schemes said that the use of videos in taking evidence was one option intended to pursue in forming proposals to improve the treatment of victims in court.

Ms Helen Reeves, a director, said: "I am horrified at what appears to be so little understanding that a woman would be frightened of giving this sort of evidence in a public court."

Manchester United look to Ferguson

Alex Ferguson, the former Scotland and Aberdeen manager, is expected to take over as the manager of Manchester United following the dismissal yesterday of Ron Atkinson.

The poor performance of the team over the last 12 months was the reason given by the club chairman, Martin Edwards, for the dismissal of Atkinson, who had been at the club for five and a half years.

Manchester United look to Ferguson

Alex Ferguson, the former Scotland and Aberdeen manager, is expected to take over as the manager of Manchester United following the dismissal yesterday of Ron Atkinson.

The poor performance of the team over the last 12 months was the reason given by the club chairman, Martin Edwards, for the dismissal of Atkinson, who had been at the club for five and a half years.

During that period the team had won the FA Cup twice but never achieved the success in the League that the club has craved since it last won the title under Matt Busby in 1967.

Advertisement for Laing & Cruickshank Investment Management Services Ltd. Includes a drawing of a flower and the text 'More than just a Stockbroker'.

Hospices must accept the challenge of Aids victims, says Runcie

By Jill Sherman

The Archbishop of Canterbury has challenged the hospice movement to face up to the problems of caring for terminally ill patients with Aids.

"I am sure this is something the hospice movement will be facing. I am sure they will face it as sensitively and courageously as they have faced other challenges."

Saunders, has said that hospice accommodation provided by the movement is not always practical for Aids patients, many of whom need intensive medical care.

Aids screening is called 'senseless'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Any plans by Britain or other countries to screen foreign visitors for signs of Aids infection would be "senseless and ineffective", the World Health Organization's leading expert on the disease said yesterday.

"We have to assume that when this is done, it is done for a more political or symbolic purpose. It does not work to prevent transmission of this international disease."

They would also need to look at improving training of both teachers and volunteers and strengthen and expand existing links between voluntary hospices and the National Health Service.

Detective denies allegations

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A senior Scotland Yard detective yesterday criticized Labour MPs for hiding behind parliamentary privilege to accuse him of corruption and claimed attacks against him were a repetition of malicious and unfounded allegations.

Brent appeal on head next week

By Staff Reporters

The appeal by Brent council in north London against a High Court ruling on disciplinary action against Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the head teacher accused of making a racist remark, has been brought forward to Monday.

The two women were having a telephone conversation on July 17 about four vacancies at the school. Miss Szulc allegedly offered the services of Mr Shamim Khan.

Publicity on teachers' pay offer defended

The Department of Education and Science yesterday defended its decision to mount a £300,000 publicity campaign in all national newspapers, setting out the details of Mr Kenneth Baker's proposals on teachers' pay.

Backing for instruction on homosexuals

More than a third of secondary school teachers accept that homosexuality should be presented as an acceptable way of living, according to a new poll.

Getty rescues Dam Buster's medals

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The medals were scheduled for sale at Sotheby's yesterday afternoon for an estimate of £1,400-£1,600 on them. Mr Getty reached for the phone and spoke to Sotheby's.

The medals were scheduled for sale at Sotheby's yesterday afternoon for an estimate of £1,400-£1,600 on them. Mr Getty reached for the phone and spoke to Sotheby's.

The medals were scheduled for sale at Sotheby's yesterday afternoon for an estimate of £1,400-£1,600 on them. Mr Getty reached for the phone and spoke to Sotheby's.

Solicitors support reforms

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals for abolishing the restrictions on solicitors' rights to appear as advocates in some courts have won overwhelming backing from among local law societies, solicitors and legal academics.

Saint or Singer?

Bob Geldof is turning again from famine to pop music. In this week's Spectator John Mortimer asks the founder of Live Aid about his improbable career. Is Geldof a strange emissary of God? Is he a foul-mouthed self-publicist? Or is he simply someone who has tried hard to do good?

In this frank interview, Geldof explains his low view of politicians (despite a sneaking admiration for David Owen), his realism about the problems of hunger, and how he combines wildness with domesticity.

Thatcher keeps out of battle with BBC

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister refused yesterday to be drawn into the row between Mr Norman Tebbit and the BBC, as Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr James Callaghan, the former Labour prime minister, led an opposition onslaught in the Commons.

Mr Kinnock said that the BBC governors had now convincingly rebutted 39 of the 40 charges made by Mr Tebbit, whom he accused of blatant and obvious coercion.

He called on Mrs Thatcher to say whether she agreed with Mr Tebbit or the governors. "Is Mrs Thatcher accepting Mr Tebbit's actions or rejecting them?" Mr Kinnock said.

The Prime Minister said the governors had a special duty to see that the BBC charter, licence and agreement were upheld. People were free to make complaints and it was up to the governors to answer them.

Channel 4 Television is expecting charges of political bias from the left next Wednesday when it starts a six-part series that is said to be the most sustained attack on the welfare state ever shown on British television (Our Media Correspondent writes).



Lord Blandford (left) leaving court with his parents (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Blandford gets final chance

Lord Blandford was yesterday given a two-year suspended prison sentence for possessing cocaine.

He was also ordered to pay £2,000 costs and put under a two-year supervision order.

Judge Pownall was told at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London that Lord Blandford had been reduced to a "physical and mental wreck" by drugs.

Lord Blandford, aged 30, has unsuccessfully tried to fight drugs before and has been in court three times since 1983.

The judge heard evidence from two drug addiction specialists and said it was clear to him there had been a change in Lord Blandford's life.

He told him: "You are indeed quite a different person to the one that was found in that squalid basement flat in the Edgware Road."

Welsh public house is best restaurant

A Welsh public house which has served first class Italian food for the past 23 years is the Egon Ronay Cellnet Restaurant of the Year.

The award was won by the Walnut Tree Inn, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, where Franco and Ann Tarnschipe serve Italian specialities such as bresaola (honey cured beef) and brodetto (fish casserole).

The Hotel of the Year Award went to the Homewood Park Hotel, Freshford, near Bath, a 15-bedroom country house hotel.

Portfolio - Gold - Chance of a holiday for family

A housewife is the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Mavis Johnson, aged 42, from Wotton in Nottingham, has played the Portfolio Gold game "off and on" since it started.

"I am a bit shocked, because I've never won anything before," Mrs Johnson said. "But I am happy."



Mrs Johnson was shocked but happy to win.

Welsh public house is best restaurant

A Welsh public house which has served first class Italian food for the past 23 years is the Egon Ronay Cellnet Restaurant of the Year.

The award was won by the Walnut Tree Inn, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, where Franco and Ann Tarnschipe serve Italian specialities such as bresaola (honey cured beef) and brodetto (fish casserole).

The Hotel of the Year Award went to the Homewood Park Hotel, Freshford, near Bath, a 15-bedroom country house hotel.

AUCTION CARPET HOTEL RESERVATION

29 efficiency which ex. En- and rose owt in was an 1. Turn- of the from 7 mt and entum. igs is wher d mil- spe- ked to ridine which it hot is are f this stages are as AZT £70 nted t the ad to shut- read, ved but well on. int, ver ind in il. il- of- a- a- al br nt. so ng ill. ne et

BEFORE YOU BUY INSURANCE GET THE BEST POSSIBLE QUOTES.

...this morning
...Glasgow can boast prob-
ably the best insurance company
in the land - Scottish Amicable
- the best

FINANCIAL WEEKLY, 8 MAY 1986

...just 19%. For
a 15 year contract there is a difference of
over 100% between the results of
which receives the wooden spoon for per-
formance, and Scottish Amicable at the
top.

POLICY MARKET, DECEMBER 1985

Scottish Amicable

...During the 1980s
it has been consistently among the
leaders and last year gave the
highest payouts on 10, 15 and 25
year endowments. Not surpris-
ingly, it sells a lot of conventional
endowment mortgage and savings
business.

MONEY OBSERVER, MAY 1986

...is made by
Scottish Amicable Life Assur-
ance Society, one of Britain's
major life companies and a
leader in the endowment mort-
gage sector.

FINANCIAL TIMES, 10 MARCH 1986

If you want to buy a life assurance policy, here are a few words of advice.

Financial quotes only give some idea of how well an insurance company will invest your money.

You'd be far better off using quotes from independent sources to guide you.

Study any of these and you'll find that Scottish Amicable is one of the best life assurance companies in Britain.

We've got a terrific investment record.

And unlike some of our competitors, we've proved that we can provide great returns for all kinds of policies - whether they're endowments for mortgages, pensions or savings plans.

We think you'll be hard pressed to find a better life assurance company.

And any independent financial adviser will probably tell you so. If you don't believe everything you read in the papers.



WE'RE A COMPANY OF NOTE. JUST ASK ANY INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER.
150 ST VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW G2 5NQ.

Spencer 150

VIPs
over r
ethnic
in so

MPs outraged over rebuff on ethnic number in services

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has refused to supply a Commons select committee with details of how many blacks and Asians there are in certain units of the Armed Forces.

The refusal was contained in a letter sent to the committee on Wednesday, the same day that Mr Roger Freeman, the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, announced that ethnic monitoring of recruits is to be introduced next year.

The ministry is on a direct collision course with the Select Committee on Defence, which will discuss what action to take at a meeting next week. Options include a formal demand for the information or "inviting" ministry officials to appear before the committee for questioning.

The ministry explained its refusal by saying that the statistics required do not exist. This has cut little ice with certain committee members, however, who said yesterday that the request, covering no more than 10 named units, had been made last July and that "they could have bloody

well gone out and counted". The committee is also keen to discover what promotion prospects blacks and Asians enjoy within the Armed Forces, and pointed out that this will not be disclosed by the monitoring announced by Mr Freeman.

One MP on the committee said that "considerable irritation" had been caused by the refusal.

He said: "I would be very surprised if the committee lets the matter lie here. This committee has a long history when it wants information of not being fobbed off. It is terrier like."

The committee asked for information on ethnic minority representation in the Armed Forces after suggestions earlier this year that blacks or Asians may be encouraged to join less fashionable branches of the Army, and the reported observation of the Prince of Wales that there were few black faces beneath the bearskins of the Guards' regiments.



Nearly 150 years ago, Welsh schoolchildren like these would already have been working underground as miners alongside their parents for a penny a day to augment the family income. Ironstone miners were paid by the ton and every extra nugget helped.

But now parties of schoolchildren - such as these from Coed Eira School, Gwent - come to Big Pit at Blaenavon in South Wales for academic reasons. Big Pit, which closed as a working colliery in 1980 after nearly 200 years of mining to supply fuel and raw materials, initially for the local ironworks, was reopened in 1983 as a living mining museum, the only coal and iron ore pit open to the public in western Europe.

Wage rules 'could cost 600,000 jobs'

By Tim Jones

A Cabinet minister said yesterday that Britain could lose up to 600,000 jobs if left-wing Euro MPs succeed in their attempt to force governments to impose minimum standards of wages and social security within the Community.

The warning from Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Employment, came a day after Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, was harracked for telling union leaders that national wage deals were costing jobs.

Mr Clarke, a president of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministers, said the proposals by the Euro Labour groupings would do nothing to help employment in Britain. "No one really knows exactly how many jobs would be lost but it would certainly be a few hundred thousand and possibly as many as 600,000", he said.

The Labour groupings will try to force governments to adopt agreed standards on pay and benefits when the European Parliament meets next week.

In spite of mounting a strong rearguard action, Conservatives believe they will lose the vote to the socialists, who cling to entrenched positions which favour trade union power.

The split is so fundamental that it has already led to the resignation of one Christian Democrat as a rapporteur responsible for drawing up a document on how the European labour market could be restructured.

A report by Mr Fred

Tuckman, a Conservative spokesman on employment, which argued that Europe had to earn its living before it could distribute wealth, was also watered down.

Even if they win the vote next week, it is unlikely that employment ministers meeting next month will adopt the proposals. With huge anomalies such as a German worker earning in a month what a Portuguese worker earns in a year, a universal wage and social services policy would be too expensive to administer.

Libya jets grounded for lack of pilots

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Libya is unable to use two sophisticated jet planes after failing to recruit British pilots to fly them.

Now Libyan Arab airlines may have to try to sell the Airbus A310s it bought last year for more than £75 million.

Libya had been trying to buy Airbus jets to replace its ageing fleet for years, but an embargo on the sale of any American equipment to Libya closed supply routes.

So the Libyans mounted a complicated international undercover operation to buy two Airbus from British Caledonian, who thought the aircraft were going to a European charter organization.

The Libyans planned to use the planes for international services by the end of this year, but they had no maintenance facilities, no simulator to train engineers and pilots and no spare parts.

Advertisements appeared in technical and specialist magazines around the world for pilots and engineers, offering up to £40,000 a year tax free for anyone prepared to fly the Airbus. But so far there have been no takers.

The Department of Transport denied putting pressure on British staff.

Bishop critical of justice for blacks

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first black bishop yesterday called for strong measures to eradicate racism from the criminal justice system.

The Bishop of Cropton, the Rt Rev Dr Wilfred Wood, said a wide-ranging anti-racist strategy was necessary if black people were to have confidence in the system.

He told the annual meeting of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders the proportion of black people in prison was more than double the proportion in the community. Black people entering prison also had fewer previous convictions than whites sentenced for similar offences.

Black defendants were significantly less likely to be granted bail than whites charged with the same types of crime, he said.

Decisions taken early in the law enforcement process contributed to the number of black people in prison. Young black people were stopped and

searched by the police roughly 10 times as often as whites. Young black offenders in London were significantly more likely to be prosecuted and less likely to be cautioned than comparable whites.

There are numbers of people who feel that the law does nothing to protect their rights to decent housing and fair opportunities for suitable employment. Many seem to have nothing to gain from the 'order' of society and nothing to lose by flouting it."

He called for personnel to be trained in working in a multi-ethnic society and for a more positive approach to the recruiting of black judges, magistrates, court clerks, lawyers and probation officers, as well as police officers.

There were only three black judges, fewer than 2 per cent of probation staff were black, and in most areas the percentage of black magistrates was less than half the proportion of black people in the local population.

Maxwell denies he brings fear

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the Daily Mirror, denied a suggestion in court yesterday that his reputation inspired fear and apprehension rather than respect.

He was being cross-examined on the fourth day of his High Court libel action against Private Eye, which is seeking to justify its allegation that he acted as "paymaster" for overseas trips by Mr Neil Kinnock, the leader of the Labour Party, in an attempt to be recommended for a peerage.

Mr Andrew Bateson, QC, for Private Eye, asked him: "Would you agree that your reputation is one of a man who inspires fear and apprehension rather than respect?" "I would not agree," Mr Maxwell, who is chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, said.

Mr Maxwell, aged 63, said that he was "appalled and shocked" at the "cruel and wicked" allegations against him by Private Eye. He said that they had not sought to justify the allegations.

In cross-examination he denied threatening Mr Kinnock that if he did not attend an anniversary party at the Daily Mirror the paper would not cover his African tour.

The magazine denies libel and claims what they published was true. They are counter-claiming libel damages over a Daily Mirror article last July which labelled them "The Public Lie".

In his opening speech to the jury, Mr Bateson said:

"It is part of my clients' case that Mr Maxwell has a generally bad reputation and is an ambitious self-publicist and a bully."

The hearing continues.

Yard drive on street crime

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is to use undercover police patrols and surveillance operations to combat street crime in five inner city areas of London.

The decision to allocate more resources to fight street crime was taken this week at a two-day conference of the Yard's top officers.

They have identified Lambeth, Southwark, Hackney and parts of Haringey and Brent as areas of concern.

Local commanders are to use members of the newly-formed tactical support units, which come into operation in January as riot teams, to mount a plainclothes operation. They will monitor places which attract street crime, such as lonely alleys and underpasses.

Detectives will also be added to local intelligence units to target suspects with established records for street crime.

The concentration on street crime comes at a time when the Yard is considering greater use of civilian staff as one way of using its stretched police manpower. The police staff of the computerized information room, which handles London's 999 calls, could be replaced by civilian operators, who might also take over the manning of the computerized command centres at divisional police stations.

The Metropolitan Police is continuing to fail to meet its establishment level, because of natural wastage and officers leaving the force, often to transfer to other parts of the country.

Print leaders face fine

Two print union leaders at the Mirror Group were warned by a High Court judge in London yesterday that they faced "substantial" fines and possible suspended jail sentences after he had found them guilty of contempt of court.

Mr Justice Mars-Jones said he will give his decision today on what penalty to impose on Mr Thomas Harrison, father (chairman) of Mirror Group Newspapers graphics chapel (office branch), and his dep-

uty, Mr Laurence Wells. The judge ruled that the two were guilty of a "flagrant" breach of an injunction granted to the Mirror Group by holding a chapel meeting on September 19 which halted production of the Daily Mirror.

But the judge acquitted the National Graphical Association of contempt because he was not satisfied that the officials were acting as "duly authorized agents" of the NGA in calling the meeting.

Which hotel would you prefer in Taipei?
 What's the best way there from the airport?
 How do you book a room in Manila?
 Where can you save 35% on a hotel room in Hong Kong?

We've taken the mystery out of the Orient.

The answers to all these questions are to be found in our Stay-a-While booklet.

If you fly Cathay Pacific, we'll help you choose a good hotel room in any of 14 places in the Far East. We'll book your rooms. We'll arrange transport to and from the airport.

We can save you money as well as trouble. (In Hong Kong, for example, you could stay in an £80 hotel room for £45.)

And when you arrive in the Far East, you won't be disorientated.

For full details of our services and the Stay-a-While booklet, see your travel agent or phone us on 01-930 7878 or

LinkLine 0345 581581.

—Arrive in better shape—
CATHAY PACIFIC
 The Swire Group

Ridley backs free market to increase rented housing

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Radical changes in the rented housing sector, including higher rents for council housing and moves towards deregulation of the private rented market, were hinted at yesterday by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Ridley, the Cabinet's keenest exponent of privatization and leading enthusiast of the free market, spoke of his ideal for the rented sector as being "a pretty complete market, where people can move freely from one part of the country to another, from bigger to smaller accommodation, and to pay the

appropriate rent for whatever they choose to rent".

He made clear, in an interview with *New Society* magazine, that he believes council rents are too low.

"The average local authority rent is £16 a week. We think the economic cost of those houses is £28 a week, and the private sector would need to let that house at £30 a week if a good landlord, with ordinary finance, is even going to cover his costs, let alone much of an element for profit."

He said that rent levels in the public and private made his desired expansion of the private sector more difficult to

achieve, and he foreshadowed changes on security of tenure for new lettings in the private sector.

Many of the ideas floated by Mr Ridley in his interview, and other equally far-reaching ones, are on the agenda for the secret Conservative manifesto on housing, which Mr Ridley chairs.

He is understood to want to go further and faster towards a completely free market in housing than Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing.

On rent control, Mr Ridley said: "There are grave problems in dismantling it for existing tenants because of habits and history. People

have got into the habit of thinking they have got their tenancies for life, they have built their lives round that.

"Whether they should have had them in the first place is a totally separate question, but the vast amount of political upheaval and upset involved in taking away those rights is pretty daunting."

He adds, however: "But you can certainly do this for new lettings."

He said that control on rent was the biggest block on the provision of more private housing because it simply was not economic at existing fair rent levels to provide a house.

The security of tenure problem was much more for the private individual who had a few properties to let and found that, when something went wrong in his life, his asset was unrealizable.

Mr Ridley said: "So one has the choice between going the whole hog and doing away with both of them, or dealing with the rent problem alone. I do not think that dealing with the security of tenure problem and not the rents problems would have any effect at all."

He defended mortgage tax relief, although asked about the long term, he said: "Clearly if housing policy evolved in a different way my successors might want to do different things."



Former Chief Petty Officer John Nelson, aged 73, receiving a commemorative medal yesterday from Mr Leonid Zamiatin, the Soviet ambassador to London, for "services to the USSR during the Second World War".

Mr Zamiatin told the former sailors, members of the North Russia Club, that the medals, commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the war, were "tokens of our gratitude" from the President of the Supreme Soviet.

The presentations were made at the Russian embassy in London. Mr Zamiatin will present 148 other members of the club with medals later.

Gazumping risk over delays

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

House buyers risk being gazumped as a result of excessive delays by local authorities in undertaking local searches. In some cases prospective purchases are being delayed by more than four months.

The problem has become so acute that buyers are using private firms which make personal searches within 24 hours for between £40 and £70 plus VAT.

The matter has been taken up by the Law Society's non-contentious business committee, which says it is

"extremely concerned" about the delays, particularly among London boroughs.

Such delays "make it impossible", the committee says, for prospective purchasers to obtain replies by post in the usual way.

This prejudices those trying to buy who "run the risk of being gazumped because they cannot exchange contracts until they obtain essential information", the committee says in this week's *Law Society Gazette*.

Solicitors are being invited to submit evidence of delays of more than four weeks. Already there have been complaints against Tonbridge and Malling in Kent, and the London boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth.

One London solicitor sent searches to Lambeth on September 4 and had received no reply by October 30. He was told that searches were taking 15 to 16 weeks. The reason given was "shortage of staff and pressure of work".

Issued by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of Virgin Group plc.

AT VIRGIN

WE BELIEVE

DECISIVENESS

BRINGS

SUCCESS.

DO YOU?

The Virgin Group is going public and soon you can apply for shares.

If you'd like to obtain a prospectus, please **01-200 0200** immediately.

(And if you see this, don't tell him.)

FROM THE ROCK MARKET TO THE STOCK MARKET.

Teachers asked to help find boy

Teachers in private schools have been asked by a High Court judge to assist in a search for a missing boy after his father refused to tell the court where he was.

The judge, Mr Justice Sheldon, lifted reporting restrictions and asked for help in an attempt to find the boy, Peter Kane, aged 11, who is a ward of court, after his father, Mr Erich Kane, a wealthy international businessman, aged 47, admitted sending him to boarding school in England but refused to say which one.

The boy's mother, Mrs Elizabeth Kane, aged 44, lives in Belgium but has been staying with relatives in Colbrook Avenue, Ealing, west London, since her search for her son began in September.

She had sent him on a two-week holiday to his grandparents in Vienna in July, and he went from there to his father's home in Switzerland. But he failed to return the boy to her.

There are no clues as to which school he is at, but the judge ordered anyone who knows where he is to come forward and tell.

£8,000 award in blood case

Miss Caroline Morgan, who was given the wrong type of blood during an operation at St Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow, was yesterday awarded £8,265 damages in the High Court and given hope by the judge.

Miss Morgan, aged 28, of Lambeth, south London, had thought the mistake would mean she could not have a baby by a man with rhesus positive blood, but Mr Justice Boreham said medical advances meant she had a 90 to 95 per cent chance of having a healthy baby.

Appeals fee under attack

The Equal Opportunities Commission claims today that a government plan to charge applicants to industrial tribunals a £25 fee would damage progress against sex discrimination by stopping women making justified claims.

The Government hopes a fee will cut the cost and management effort required to deal with ill-founded claims to industrial tribunals. But the commission says that adequate safeguards against these claims already exist.

Major cleared in shop charge

A shopping charge against Major Barnaby Roffe-Smith, an officer in The Parachute Regiment, was withdrawn when the case came before magistrates at Aldershot, Hampshire, yesterday.

Major Roffe-Smith, aged 38, a veteran of the Falklands campaign, had been accused of stealing goods worth £3.17 from a Gateway supermarket in Fleet, Hampshire, on August 22. But at yesterday's hearing the prosecution offered no evidence.

Nurses return from Saudi

Three women who were detained in Saudi Arabia for a week for breaking Islamic law arrived back in London yesterday, the last of 29 British medical staff deported from Riyadh.

The two nurses and a secretary at the Military Hospital in Riyadh were arrested for accepting a lift from an unrelated man, which is an offence under Saudi law.

Court upholds school closure

A small Essex community yesterday lost its High Court battle to save Ongar Comprehensive School which won the National Curriculum Award in 1984.

The court ruled that the county council had carried out adequate consultations before deciding to close it in 1989 because of falling pupil numbers.

Guinness kidnap ordeal

Mrs Jennifer Guinness, a banker's wife, endured a eight-day ordeal at the hands of a kidnap gang after being seized at gunpoint from her home, the Circuit Criminal Court in Dublin was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Kennedy, for the prosecution, said Mrs Guinness, who was tied up, chained and masked for some of the time, feared for her life because of the changing mood of her captors.

She was held at four different addresses before being released unharmed after an overnight siege outside a house in Waterloo Road, Dublin, on April 16.

Brian McNicholl, aged 49, of Waterloo Road, Dublin, who is said to have admitted organizing the kidnap, pleaded not guilty to falsely imprisoning Mrs Guinness and to having a gun with intent to endanger life.

Three men sentenced earlier were arrested in or near the house from which Mrs Guinness was freed. Mr McNicholl was detained by police later that day when he turned up at the house with a woman friend, Mrs Clara Lenihan.

Mrs Lenihan lived at the Waterloo Road address but had nothing to do with the kidnap, Mr Kennedy said.

On the day Mrs Guinness was due to be moved to the siege house, they drove to Co Westmeath and saw a friend of Mr McNicholl, Mr James Clark.

Mr McNicholl, said to have been ashen-faced, asked to talk to Mr Clark urgently and told him: "I am in terrible trouble; my boys kidnaped Mrs Guinness". He later added: "My boys would never tell on me. I organized the kidnaping." Mr McNicholl and Mrs Lenihan then drove back to Dublin to be met by the police.

Mr Kennedy told the jury it was as plain as a "pikstaff" that a lot of force was used throughout the kidnaping.

Three other men have already been jailed for their part in the kidnaping of Mrs Guinness from her home at Howth, Dublin, in an unsuccessful attempt to get a £2 million ransom.

On Wednesday, Anthony Kelly, who is sought by Yorkshire police in connection with crimes including the murder of a police sergeant in Leeds, was sentenced to 14 years by the court.

Last May, John and Michael Cunningham, brothers, were imprisoned for 17 years and 14 years respectively.

Fixed price heat saves bill worries for elderly

The Electricity Council announced yesterday the introduction of a remote-controlled heating scheme designed specifically for elderly people.

The scheme, called Budget Warmth, will be operational in six electricity board areas where more than 5,000 systems will be installed this winter.

About 40,000 more elderly people die in winter than during the rest of the year, according to the British Medical Association. Many of those deaths are caused by hypothermia.

Budget Warmth will provide customers with one-room heating at a known weekly cost ranging from £2.28 to £4.37. The heating is remotely controlled by the Electricity Board via radio

teleswitch in line with local weather forecasts.

The scheme, which has been introduced on a pilot basis, is part of a drive to ensure that those most vulnerable to the cold have adequate heating without the worry of bills.

Sir Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, said that the Budget Warmth scheme was being introduced on a pilot basis to see if customers, especially the elderly and infirm, found it helpful.

"We hope that the scheme will ease their worries about heating bills and ensure that they keep warm throughout the winter," Sir Philip said.

The boards taking part in the scheme are Eastern, East Midlands, North Eastern, South Eastern, Southern and Yorkshire.

WORLD SUMMARY

Landmark bill on immigration

Washington - President Reagan yesterday signed an historic immigration bill aimed at stemming the flood of billions of illegal aliens into the United States (Mohsin Ali writes).

He described the bill as the most comprehensive reform of US immigration laws since 1952, and said: "Future generations of Americans will be thankful for our efforts to generously regain control of our borders, and thereby preserve the value of one of the most sacred possessions of our people, American citizenship."

The landmark bill provides amnesty for illegal aliens who came to the United States before 1982 and civil and criminal penalties for employers who hire illegal aliens in the future.

According to official estimates there may be as many as eight to 12 million aliens living illegally in the United States, and 6 million more attempt to enter each year, mainly across the 2,000-mile US-Mexican border.

Prices frozen

Athens - Greece yesterday ordered a three-month price freeze on all domestic and imported goods and services to discourage profiteering over the introduction of value added tax on January 1 (Mario Modiano writes).

A presidential decree that Parliament must ratify within 40 days meant that all prices remain at the level of November 4 until January 31. Offenders face six months' jail or a fine of £2,600, or both.

Life jail for spy

Baltimore (Reuters) - Former Navy officer and admitted spy John Walker Jr has been sentenced to concurrent life terms for masterminding an espionage ring that sold military secrets to the Soviet Union for 17 years.

His son, Michael, a former Navy seaman, was jailed for 25 years for his role in the scheme. The judge said he wanted Walker to serve out his sentence for the rest of his natural life.

Kohl under fire again

Bonn - Chancellor Kohl, already in international trouble over his Gorbachev-Goebbels gaffe, yesterday ran into domestic flak on it in a stormy debate in the Bonn Parliament (John England writes).

The Social Democratic and Greens opposition parties called for him to be relieved of his post, and said his "laughable" attempts to mend fences with Moscow over his "incredible" blunder were too little, too late.

Herr Kohl had once again said he regretted that a false impression had arisen from his interview with the US news magazine Newsweek that he had compared Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to Dr Josef Goebbels, the Nazi Propaganda Minister.

Baby for dissident

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Mrs Avital Sharansky, wife of former Soviet dissident Mr Anatoly Sharansky, yesterday gave birth to a daughter nine months after being reunited with her husband.

Mrs Sharansky, aged 36, emigrated to Israel a day after their marriage in July 1974, but Mr Sharansky was refused an exit visa.

Kim may not run

Seoul - Mr Kim Dae Jung, the prominent opposition leader, has said that he will not run for president in 1988 if the Government heeds his call for direct presidential elections (NYT reports).

Western diplomats and opposition politicians here say his decision will put the Government on the defensive and reinvigorate the opposition.

Call for 'bipartisan co-operation' after election battering

Reagan to woo Senate

From Michael Binyon Washington

President Reagan's defiant statement that he has no intention of becoming a "lame duck" during his last two years comes as he is preparing to adopt a conciliatory approach to the newly-elected Democratic-controlled Senate.

Mr Reagan said he was looking forward to a period of "hard work and bipartisan co-operation" when Congress returns in January - in contrast to his earlier predictions during the election campaign of "two years of stalemate" if the Republicans lost control of the Senate.

But the President, known for his pragmatism when the odds are against him, will probably spend much more time consulting Democratic leaders and briefing senators on his measures and more controversial proposals.

Administration officials admit that the situation is now much more difficult for him, and conciliation is the watchword. However, they insist that he will press forward with his political agenda unchanged and will make no concessions in maintaining US military preparedness and reducing domestic government spending.

"For this administration, peace through strength is more than a policy; it's a promise - a promise we've made to the



Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, right, receiving a silk jacket from Senator George Mitchell of Maine as a memento of the 55-45 Senate advantage the Democrats hold.

majority leader-designate, has said a new trade Bill will be on the President's desk as soon as possible.

Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, said the Democrats will have trouble finding enough votes to override the veto which Mr Reagan is certain to impose on any harshly protectionist legislation.

The following results in the House of Representatives were declared too late for yesterday's early editions. The figure for the district number is followed by the winning party and candidate's name. Lines in bold indicate the seat changed hands. A date in brackets shows when an incumbent was first elected. New representatives have D or R in brackets to indicate the party that previously held the seat.

- California** 38 R Robert Dornan (76)
- Illinois** 21 D Charles Price (44)
- Michigan** 10 R William Schutte (84)
- Minnesota** 2 R Vin Weber (80)
- Montana** 2 R Ron Marlenee (76)
- Nevada** 2 R Barbara Vucanovich (82)
- New Jersey** 3 D James Howard (64)
- New York** 30 D Louise Slaughter (R)
- North Carolina** 11 D James Clarke (R)

Blacks flocked to vote

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Black voters in southern states played a central role in scuttling President Reagan's hopes of retaining Republican control of the Senate.

The result points to a trend that threatens to make the Democrats the "black" party of Dixie, while the Republicans become the "white" party.

The black turnout nationally was close to the overall national turnout of about 38 per cent, far greater than usual, and the result of an intensive black voter registration drive.

Republican hopes of a fundamental realignment in Dixie away from the historical support of the Democratic Party may be coming true in the case of whites, although the process is obviously happening slowly. But support for the Democrats was as high as 88 per cent.

This polarization in the Senate races was less striking in the voting pattern for the House of Representatives and for state legislatures. But the trend is unmistakable.

According to exit polls the white vote in Senate races in Alabama, North Carolina, Louisiana and California split roughly equally overall between Republicans and Democrats. But the black vote was monolithically Democratic.

Late results from the polling

Texas 14 R David Sweeney (84)

Washington 1 R John Miller (84)

In addition the district 10 result for Florida was at first declared for the wrong candidate. The result should have read:

10 R Andy Ireland (76)

In the results of gubernatorial races yesterday Democrat Anthony Earl was inadvertently denoted the winner in Wisconsin, although the vote tallies were correct. The winner was Republican Tommy Thompson.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Sometimes in politics small causes have much larger consequences. So it is likely to prove with the Democratic party's recapture of the American Senate.

The mid-term elections were not a test of President Reagan's popularity. With a few exceptions, such as agricultural policy in some of the farming states, they were not about issues of any national consequence.

So when I arrived in the United States at the end of last week, I thought it might not make all that much difference whether or not the Republicans managed to keep control of the Senate. Most of the Democrats taking over committee chairmanships would be on the moderate wing of the party and they would not wish to pick a fight with a President who retained his astonishing personal popularity.

But the more I have spoken to Republicans themselves, in and out of the Administration, the more I have come to revise that initial judgment. A distinction should be drawn between the effect of the loss of the Senate on Mr Reagan himself and on the Administration.

With another President, the damage might have been severe. Here is a leader who campaigned extensively, who attacked his opponents, often in harsh personal terms, who apparently committed much political capital to the struggle and whose appeal was then rejected by the voters in the races that mattered most.

But Mr Reagan has a personal standing that transcends normal political considerations. It does not appear to be diminished either by failure or by disagreement. He may not be able to win enough votes for his supporters but he will retain the affection and the approval of the country.

The impact of the Senate defeat will be much more severe, however, on his Administration. That is true even though the Republicans

did not do at all badly in the other elections this week.

At this stage, after six years in office and with no more than another two years to go, some exodus of people just below Cabinet level would have been expected anyway. Some are exhausted and others will want to move to lucrative jobs outside government while this Administration remains in office and their connection with it confers prestige. This exodus will now be all the greater because it will become significantly harder for the Administration to get any fresh initiative through Congress.

The Democratic leadership in the Senate is unlikely to go out of its way to quarrel with the Administration. It will be wary of Mr Reagan's continuing popularity and it will not want to present a target for Republican criticism in 1988.

None the less, there will be some areas where the Democrats will be expected to make things difficult for the Administration - on aid for the Contras in Nicaragua, for example, on defence spending in general and possibly on the Strategic Defence Initiative in particular. There will be a good many more areas where they will not be deliberately disruptive but where they will be less helpful and less prepared to take political risks than Republican committee chairmen would have been.

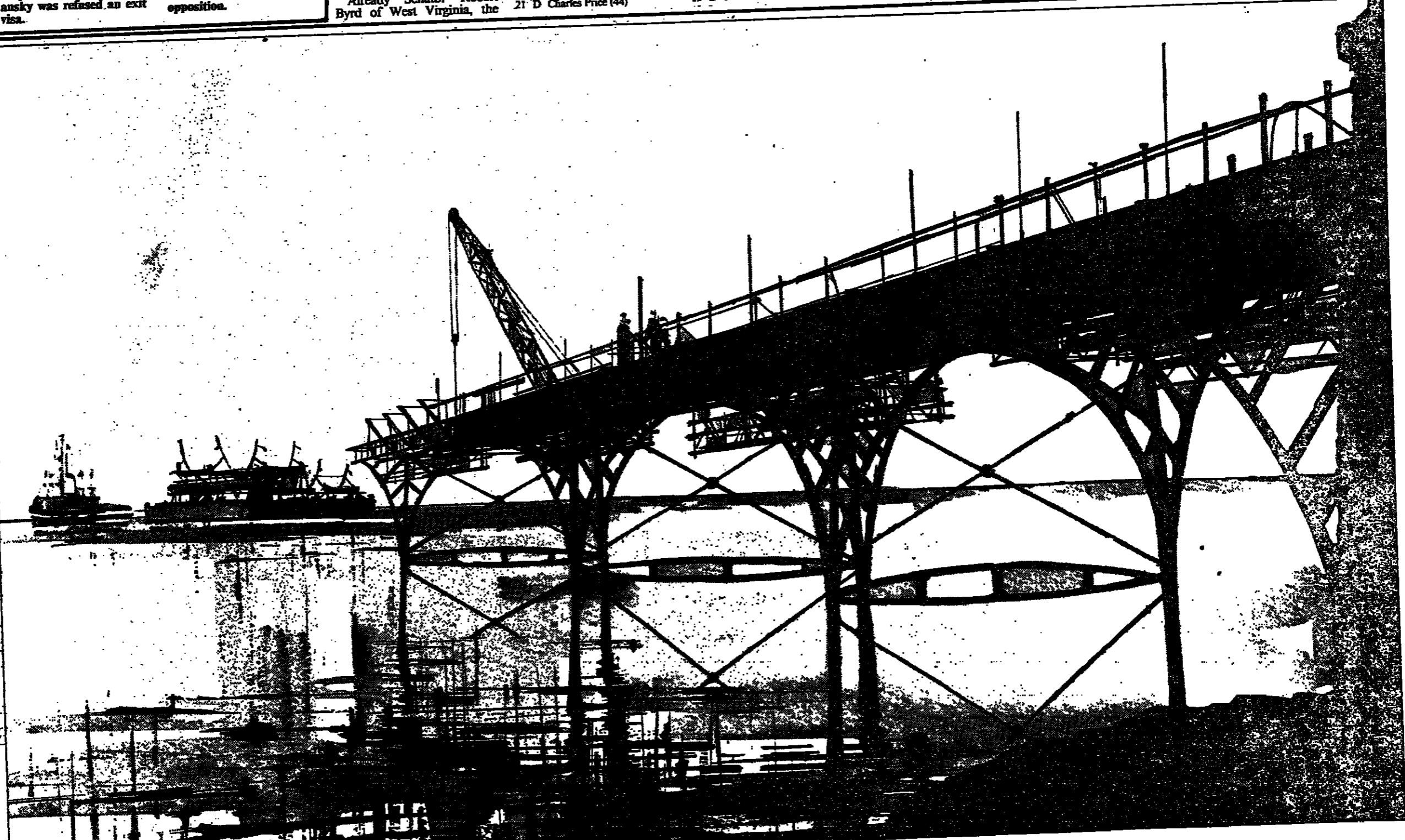
Scope for positive action restricted

These tendencies will reinforce each other. The more people leave the Administration at that critical level where the specifics of policy initiatives are developed, the fewer bold new ideas will be presented to Congress. The more Congress resists new initiatives, the more likely it is that capable people will leave the Administration because they feel that they can no longer accomplish much.

Even if the change of personnel within the Administration - and also on the Senate committee staffs now that the Democrats are taking over the chairmanships - were only to slow down the policy flow for a while, it would still be a critical loss of momentum.

There could not in the best of circumstances be much more than a year available to the Reagan Administration for substantial new initiatives. From early 1988 the political process will become overwhelmed by the presidential primaries.

So the prospect is not of a lame duck President, but of an Administration whose scope for positive action will be much restricted.



When the oil price slumped, it seemed like the end of the pier.

An unlikely story at first sight, perhaps. But one which well illustrates the 'ripple-effect' that can operate in the world's economy. When the oil price took a tumble, so unfortunately did many companies. Among them was a large and long-established engineering concern. Its collapse threatened to bring to a halt the restoration of one of England's most cherished piers, upon which the company had been working until its demise.

Happily, work on the pier was not after all interrupted, thanks to the swift initiative of the receiver. Also unaffected were thirty eight of the creditors with whom the ill-fated company had been associated. They owe their immunity to the fact that they were insured with Trade Indemnity, against just the sort of unpredictable risk which could otherwise have brought them down.

At Trade Indemnity, we can't predict where financial problems may originate. But, for a tiny percentage of your turnover, we can safeguard your company against them. Allowing you to look forward to expansion, without looking over your shoulder for trouble. We've over 65 years behind us and the widest range of policies available. For further information, contact us direct.



Trade Indemnity

Sheila Burman, Trade Indemnity plc, Box 228, 12-34 Gt Eastern St., London EC2A 3AN. Tel: 01-59-4511 Telex: 21227

White woman member of ANC sentenced to 25 years for treason

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A white woman who confessed to being a member of the military wing of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and planting bombs in three police stations earlier this year was sentenced yesterday to 25 years in prison for treason and arson.

There were cries of "Amanda, Awethu" ("Power to the people") from the mixed crowd packed into the public gallery of the Rand Supreme Court as the Miss Marion Sparg, holding a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums given to her by a sympathizer, was escorted from the court by police.

Sparg, aged 28, who is one of the few whites and still fewer white women to be convicted of treason, pleaded guilty to all the charges against her. She accepted the judge's verdict with composure, and even managed a smile for her tearful mother in the gallery.

During the first two days of the three-day trial, Sparg wore a black suit and a green shirt, and yesterday added a yellow ribbon to complete the three colours of the ANC flag. She said that she regarded herself not as a traitor but as "a soldier and patriot" fighting to rid South Africa of the evil of apartheid, which she saw as a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace.

"Apartheid has to be destroyed and the only way to do so is by going to war," she said. "My motives, I feel, are not those of a murderer or killer or even of a saboteur... My motive is that of a soldier, a volunteer soldier, not one who is conscripted."

Sparg confessed to planting limpet mines in February and March of this year in toilets in police stations in East London and Johannesburg, and to petrol-bombing offices of the liberal opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) five years ago.

The limpet mines caused considerable damage and slightly wounded several policemen and civilians.

Sparg told the court she was fully aware that the mines could have killed people, but said she regarded the police as "combatants" and had tried to minimize the risk to civilians.

Police stations were symbols of the system which was protecting apartheid, Sparg maintained. She said she regretted the bombing of the PFP offices. She had been "confused and immature" at the time. She still disagreed with the party, but would not choose it as a target now.

Sparg said that a turning-point in her life was the death



Marion Sparg, admitted planting limpet mines.

of Mr Stephen Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, in police custody in 1977.

She had been horrified by the lack of concern of fellow white students at Rhodes University where she had been studying journalism at the time.

After practising for a while as a journalist, she left South Africa illegally in 1981, going to Botswana and then to Zambia.

From there she was sent by the ANC, which has its headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, to a camp in Angola for three months military training.

Sparg spent three years in Lusaka working in the ANC's information and publicity department, and was infiltrated back into South Africa via Lesotho in 1985 on a false passport.

Early this year she and an accomplice smuggled eight limpet mines into South Africa from Lesotho in the back-door panels of a hired car.

The judge, Mr Justice P J van der Walt, said it was "providential" that no-one had been killed as the result of Sparg's actions, and told her: "Had lives been lost, you would almost certainly have received the death penalty."

● Boesak pledge: Dr Allan Boesak, Moderator of the Coloured branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, said on Wednesday night that he would not hesitate to repeat acts for which he had been charged with subversion by the Government.



Three American sailors toasting Chen Mimi, of the Chinese Navy, with local beer during a visit to a brewery at Qingdao yesterday. The occasion was part of the first official visit by three US warships to China in 57 years.

Deadlock in Vienna

Shultz and Shevardnadze bury hopes

From Andrew McEwen, Vienna

The brief Reykjavik flowering of hope for an end to the era of nuclear "overkill" yesterday remained where President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev left it - in limbo.

Two Vienna meetings between Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and his Soviet opposite number, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, ended in deadlock.

Short of a climbdown from fixed positions, there is now no prospect of anything but piecemeal preparatory agreements in the near future.

The original plan - that Reykjavik should pave the way for an historic disarmament summit - have been shelved.

President Reagan hopes that agreement will be reached before his term ends now look remote, although, as Mr Shultz pointed out yesterday, "two years is a long time".

The two foreign ministers have set no date for another meeting. The focus switches to the humbler level of the Geneva strategic arms talks.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief US arms negotiator, believes the Soviets will table

their proposals tomorrow, but he expects no surprises.

Vienna has been a major setback for the Americans in the struggle for European hearts and minds. As a platform to hammer home the Soviet message that the American obsession with Star Wars is blocking world peace it could hardly have been more effective.

The reality is somewhat different, as American experts struggled to explain yesterday. Far from being the only barrier to agreement, the Strategic Defence Initiative is but one of a range of problems.

Another of these is of far more fundamental importance to Nato. The Russians refuse to concede any automatic verification procedure to ensure compliance with an agreement to withdraw most Soviet and Nato troops from central Europe.

The Soviet idea of verification would be no more than a right to request an inspection after receiving evidence of "cheating".

American and Soviet experts who worked late into the night between the two Shultz-

Administration take this line of thought further. Some interpret the Vienna meeting as confirmation of their worst fears - that the entire Reykjavik-Vienna process was nothing more than a Kremlin propaganda exercise.

"My opinion is that they would try to lay the foundations for a PR campaign to denigrate the US," a senior Administration hawk said yesterday.

The Soviet public relations triumph at Reykjavik and Vienna has been so total that it is the Americans who have the explaining to do. Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze have that vital political quality - the ability to radiate personal trustworthiness. But the Soviet Foreign Minister holds the balance of advantage with better speech writers, a warmer manner and a more moderate image.

Vienna was virtually an action replay on Reykjavik, with a crestfallen Mr Shultz reporting failure while Mr Shevardnadze rubbed salt in the wound with his airport departure statement that the talks "had left a bitter taste".

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is openly voicing his doubts that the Soviet Union wants such a world. Cynics within the US

Flowers but no tears for general

From Roger Boye, Warsaw

Poland's secret policemen, the vintage and the scum, joined soldiers veteran and new, yesterday, to say farewell to General Mieczyslaw Moczar, one of the strongest and most sinister politicians in the country's post-war history.

The unexpected mourner yesterday's funeral service was General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, who could not be classed as an admirer of the former Interior Minister. General Moczar, during one of several pushes for the leadership, helped to stir up a vicious anti-semitic campaign in 1968 that prompted many hundreds of Polish Jews to leave their jobs or their country. Professor Henryk Jablonski, former head of the Polish state, now chairman of the War Veteran's Association, reviewed General Moczar's career from pre-war communist, to partisan leader, to secret police chief in Lodz, to Interior Minister and on, by means of a series of sidesteps, into influential obscurity.

"Comrade Moczar was shaped by history but he also gave it shape," Professor Jablonski said in his speech, which sped, like a skater on thin ice, over the events of 1968.

The pile of wreaths included those from the Communist Party - for, despite his jostling with party leaders Mr Wladyslaw Gomułka, Mr Edward Gierek and Mr Stanislaw Kania, he remained a true believing communist until the end. Another wreath came from Interior Ministry employees - the ministry which oversees the secret and uniformed police and which for so long served as his political base.

General Moczar evolved a kind of nationalistic communism, which both embraced and distanced itself from the Soviet Union - to some that was an attractive philosophy, to others an excuse to indulge in the crudest of chauvinisms.

Those in power drifted away, those out of power stayed, strangely connected to the man in the coffin. They dispersed, shaking off the rain, only when the coffin was loaded into a bus for the last trip to a family grave near Lublin. It was an unsentimental departure befitting an unsentimental politician.

Soviet military chief may go soon

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A shake-up at the top level of the Soviet military establishment is believed to be imminent following persistent rumours about the failing health of the Defence Minister, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, who is 75.

The speculation intensified yesterday when the ageing minister conspicuously failed to attend a major Kremlin rally to mark the 69th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

According to senior West-

ern military sources, the minister has not been seen in public since last July when he paid an official trip to Finland.

Rumours about his failing health gathered momentum with the publication of an official notice in the armed forces newspaper Red Star on Wednesday stating that in a break with tradition, he would not be taking the salute at the annual military parade through Red Square.

An order, signed by the Commander of the Moscow Military District, Vladimir

Archipov, said that the parade would be presided over instead by General Pyotr Lushch, the man most widely tipped by both Western and Soviet sources to take over the important defence portfolio.

● Harvest up: A dramatic improvement in the Soviet output of grain was claimed yesterday by Mr Yigor Ligachev, the No 2 figure in the Kremlin hierarchy, who said that the harvest for 1986 was now expected to reach 210 million tonnes. The figure caught most international experts by surprise.

At 70mph you shouldn't be fumbling for your secretary.



When you're in the fast lane, the last thing you should be doing is scrambling for your car-phone to take a call from the office.

With a Panasonic car-phone you can take any incoming calls on the hands-free system, at the touch of a button.

The small, discreet microphone and powerful receiver mean you

don't have to touch the hand-set during a call.

And with its speed dialling function you can call any one of up to 30 numbers in the memory by pressing only 4 buttons, and still use the hands-free system.

With a Panasonic car-phone you can safely get hold of your secretary but still keep both hands where they should be. On the wheel.

To: Joanne Thrift, Panasonic Industrial UK Ltd., 280 - 290 Bath Rd., Slough, Berkshire SL1 6JG. Telephone 0753 73181. Please send me details on Panasonic Cellular.

Name _____ Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
Post code _____ Tel No _____

Panasonic Cellular

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Visit by Chirac crowns success of co-operation on Eta raiders

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, held his private conversations with Señor Felipe González, the Spanish opposite number, during his one-day visit here yesterday. The visit took place at a time when Franco-Spanish collaboration against terrorism has never been better.

The handing over early yesterday to Spain of six Spanish Basques, all alleged ETA members, detained by French police after a raid on a factory just inside the French border on Wednesday, was the biggest since last summer, when France started a policy of summary extraditions.

All the political parties in Madrid praised the French action, seen here yesterday as a serious blow for the Basque terrorist organization's infrastructure.

The haul included not only sophisticated weapons but also internal papers relating to ETA's financial situation and future plans for armed attacks. Spain's ruling Socialist Party is enjoying a degree of co-operation from the conservative administration

Protests in Spain over guerrillas' expulsion

Madrid. — The Spanish Basque country erupted in protest yesterday against France's expulsion of six suspected separatist guerrillas as French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac paid his first official visit to Madrid.

Demonstrators blocked motorways and roads around several Basque towns, set fire

in Paris unknown under the French Socialist Government.

The six Basques handed over yesterday were being transferred under the Anti-Terrorism Law to Spain's maximum security jail, where they will be held incommunicado. There were, however, some street demonstrations in the Basque region yesterday against the French move.

The two countries have, for the time being at least, settled their disputes over fishing rights in the Bay of Biscay and over the admission to EEC markets of Mediterranean products — rivaling those from Spain — from North African countries.

France is currently Spain's best customer but only third supplier of goods and services, and that position has been slipping since Spain joined the EEC last January.

Besides reviewing with Señor González further collaboration on terrorism, Mr Chirac also sought to persuade Spain to increase its defence purchases and to collaborate more closely with the French communications industry.



Chile students riot

Fellow students aiding one of the five high school pupils hurt during clashes with police in Santiago yesterday. More than 100 students were arrested when police stopped a group which had seized control of a high school asking for democratic freedom in the educational system. At a seminar on national security on Wednesday, Airforce Colonel Carlos Castro, commenting on the results in the elections for national student leaders, won by the centre-left, said: "The universities are falling into the hands of the marxists."

Lima's reformist mayor ends myth of bungling left

From Michael Smith, Lima

Mayor Alfonso Barrantes's three-year term in office, which comes to a close with the municipal elections in Peru on Sunday, has done much to change the face of the city and the workings of Peruvian politics.

As the first freely-elected Marxist mayor of a Latin American capital, he and his United Left coalition have moved into political respectability, which would theoretically include a shot at national power.

"The Barrantes mayoralty has shattered the myth of the left's incompetence in administrative power," said Señor Mirko Lauer, a political analyst.

Lima is a sprawling city of nearly six million inhabitants caught in a two-pronged urban pincer. Its inner city suffers from deterioration as commercial interest move out to more attractive, new business districts. But it is also surrounded by shanty towns where nearly half the population clamour for basic services like water and light.

In the past, municipal government has done little but rubber-stamp birth certificates, raise statues in parks and keep street vendors from usurping whole blocks — often unsuccessfully. There have only been five free municipal elections in 150 years of independence so there was little precedent on which to build.

Señor Barrantes inherited a city hall which was unable to meet its monthly payrolls. Today the budget is out of the red, topping \$121 million (\$25 million). The investment budget has been increased 11-fold from 1984 levels, in part due to an \$83 million World Bank loan for urban infrastructure.

After fighting for 18 months to get municipal finances under control, Señor Barrantes undertook a major facelift of downtown Lima, painting historic buildings and plazas in vivid tones, re-routing traffic and buses away from congested streets and remodeling main boulevards. More than 150 miles of roads have been repaired or paved.

Colombia clash kills 16

Bogotá (Reuters) — Fifteen left wing guerrillas and a soldier were killed in a clash in north-eastern Colombia, and rebels blew up a vital oil pipeline in César.

An army spokesman said the clash, on the eve of the anniversary of the siege of the Bogotá law courts in which nearly 100 people died, was in the province of Antioquia.

Children die

Jakarta (AFP) — Four sleeping children were killed when a huge boulder rolled down a West Sumatran hill after heavy rain near Padan and crushed two houses.

Boy released

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — An Argentine boy aged 11, kidnaped by security forces during military rule in 1977 and placed in the care of a policeman, has been returned to relatives.

Gold swoop

Kathmandu (AFP) — Customs officers arrested four people at Kathmandu international airport, two of them politicians, for allegedly trying to smuggle £180,000 of gold into Nepal.

Blast admitted

Osaka (AFP) — A Japanese gangster has confessed that he exploded a hand grenade on a Thai airliner that made an emergency landing here after an explosion on board on October 26, according to police.

Artist held

Nairobi (AP) — Mr Paul Kelemba, editorial cartoonist for Kenya's largest-selling newspaper, the Daily Nation, has been arrested and charged with placing a fake bomb in a toilet at his office.

Yaji resigns

Khartoum (AFP) — Mr Mohamed Ahmed Yaji, the Sudanese minister with responsibility for finding a peaceful solution to the civil war in southern Sudan, has resigned for health reasons.

Pope's trip

Washington — The Pope will visit Miami, Columbia in South Carolina, New Orleans, San Antonio, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Monterey in California and San Francisco next year.

Aden head

Aden (Reuters) — South Yemen's parliament has elected the interim president, Mr Haider Abubaker al-Atas, head of state for a five-year term.

Planes crash

Tampa (Reuters) — A Pan American World Airways 727 jet and a light plane collided in fog on the ground at Tampa International Airport, killing at least one person and injuring several others.

Girl Monday



Girl Tuesday



Girl Wednesday



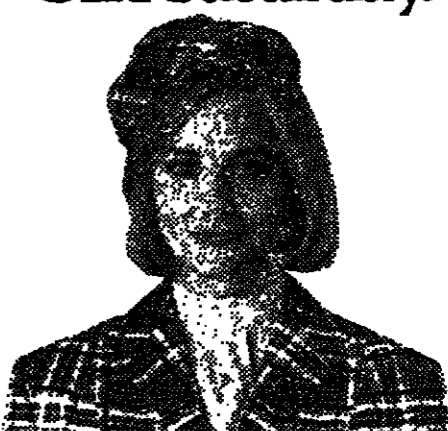
Girl Thursday



Girl Friday



Girl Saturday



Girl Sunday



Every day to the USA.

Non-stop to New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Atlanta.

See your travel agent for details.

*Daily service to Atlanta jointly operated by British Caledonian and Sabena using a Sabena B747

British Caledonian
We never forget you have a choice.



Why should we want to make energy go further?

At Esso, our business is selling energy. Yet for many years we have been helping people save energy.

A paradox, perhaps, but with good reason. We know that a strong future for our industry depends on the continual encouragement of energy efficiency now.

Since 1979, we have invested over £40m in projects aimed at long term energy conservation within Esso itself. From major heat recovery programmes at our Fawley refinery, to simply encouraging offices to 'switch off the light.'

In 1985 alone, these measures saved us around £28m, against an annual energy bill of £110m. Enlightened self-interest, you may say. Yet we're also active outside our own walls.

In this Energy Efficiency Year, for instance, we have provided £30,000 to the national charity supported by the

Department of Energy, Neighbourhood Energy Action, which provides insulation for the poor and the elderly.

We are also sponsoring a nationwide programme of Energy Efficiency Education seminars, organised by the Cranfield Institute of Technology, to help teachers and administrators use energy better.

And we continue to promote new thinking on energy matters by sponsoring the Royal Society Esso Energy Award.

The Meteorological Office won it this year for a global weather forecasting system that enables aircraft to make best use of prevailing winds — and hence fuel economies.

Although forecasting next year's winner is impossible, one thing is certain. On the energy efficiency front, Esso will continue to make further strides.



Quality at work for Britain.

A MEMBER OF THE EXXON GROUP



Cellular

THE ARTS

Natural suffering

The producer Alan Stewart was killed by a land-mine while filming Where Hunger is a Weapon for This Week (ITV) in Southern Sudan...

Fellini's integrity in nostalgic farce

CINEMA

Ginger and Fred (15) Gate Notting Hill, Cannon Tottenham Court Road

Shoah (PG) Curzon

Ruthless People (18) Odeon Leicester Square

Federico Fellini's Roman trilogy, which began 26 years ago with La dolce vita and had Roma (1972) as its centre-piece, is completed by Ginger and Fred...



Just a shade arthritic: Marcello Mastroianni and Giulietta Masina in Ginger and Fred

and Queen Elizabeth lookalikes and a miracle woman who went without television for three whole months...

The nine and a half hours of Claude Lanzmann's Shoah (the Curzon are showing it in two separate parts) afford an experience that is less like watching a movie than a long journey through a sombre night of history...

The survivors are few and their stories are terrible: a man on an exhumation detail (the Germans had changed their minds and decided to disinter and cremate 40,000 bodies already buried) chanced suddenly on the corpses of his family...

He needs to record their pain: "These tears", he says, "are the seal of truth."

With the old Nazis who appear before his camera (generally for cash, and sometimes not knowing the camera was there) he is more ruthless, leading them into terrible self-exposure...

The accumulation of so much detail brings us closer than ever before to the experience of the Holocaust. It cannot explain, any more than previous films...

For comic relief this week you could hardly do better than Ruthless People, directed by Jim Abrahams and David and Jerry Zucker, and a marked advance upon their previous Airplane and Top Secret...

David Robinson

Claude Lanzmann, director of Shoah, is interviewed by David Robinson in tomorrow's paper.

TELEVISION

Dennis Potter's Blue Remembered Hills (BBC2), which won the Bafta award for best single play in 1979, was aired last night as part of the BBC's nostalgicfest...

Consider the plot. It culminates in the burning to death of Donald Duck, the village cissy, in a barn. He had been shut in by the other children for a joke and it was their third attack on him that day...

Anne Campbell Dixon

THEATRE

Too True to be Good Riverside

T.E. Lawrence, complete with motor cycle, and disquisitions on government, postwar sexuality and the wholesale collapse of belief (typically, the chief victim is a former devout atheist)...

By all the rules, the result ought to be unstagely incoherent, and yet the play remains spellbinding. Its success derives partly from the quality of each scenic fragment in which we see earlier Shavian arguments distilled to their comic essence...

breaks into the open in the chaplain's final speech to an empty stage, confessing that he has to go on preaching, although he has nothing to say...

Backed by recordings of "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" and a do-it-yourself cut-out set, Mike Alfred's Shared Experience production sets out to anchor the piece in the 1920s...

It is a stop-go production when it is properly in gear - as in the military exchanges between Sam Dale and Jonathan Newth, or in the runaway scene with her asphyxiating mother (Selina Cadell and Sheila Reid) - and it has you on the edge of your seat...

Irving Wardle

DANCE

Sleeping Beauty Covent Garden

Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty was Cynthia Harvey's fifth role at Covent Garden since her debut with the Royal Ballet four weeks earlier. Those roles have covered the spectrum of the repertory...

The chief merit of her dancing in this role is a smooth, sustained quality of movement. This shows especially in the creamy way she phrases the solo in the Vision Scene, making it flow lyrically without any loss of definition in individual movements...

Because of those attributes, the role of Aurora suits her a lot better than the smaller part in this ballet, the Bluebird's



Natural gift for drama: Cynthia Harvey with Jay Jolley

enchanted princess, which she played last week. Ravenna Tucker took over that assignment this time, and was sharply brilliant. With the blithely bounding Phillip Broomhead as her partner, the duet sparkled as it should...

Lake production next March. She has a very womanly quality, not at all like a little girl, and that means she has to rely on charm and freshness in her dancing to convince as the heroine still on the threshold of maturity. However that is a problem others have faced and overcome before her...

role was actually her first time in it.

Jay Jolley was her prince. He is a gentlemanly partner, an actor in the romantic style, and it was good to see in his solos that he has now worked through the difficulties that best him last season after injuries. Harvey deserved a more gallant set of suitors, however, for the Rose Adagio; of the four, only Mark Silver showed any dignity of comportment, or any sense of occasion.

A misbehaving curtain in the transformation scene saved us for once from the ludicrous effect of trees apparently growing down from heaven instead of up from the earth; that happy accident should be retained as a permanent improvement.

Among the supporting cast I must mention Deborah Bull's high, easy jumps, the vigour of Karen Paisey and the smoothness of Bruce Sansom in the trio of Florestan and his sisters.

I must also make space to mention the new cast I saw in Symphonic Variations at a schools' matinee on Tuesday. Deirdre Eydien and Mark Silver showed qualities very like those of Harvey and Jolley as the central couple; the other parts gained from the presence of Broomhead and Sansom, Tucker and Fiona Chadwick, all well suited. Now we have got that ballet right, it deserves further performances soon to work it in properly.

John Percival

MEMORIAL CONCERT

Cornelius Cardew Purcell Room

This concert, a tribute to the socialist composer Cornelius Cardew, who died in a road accident five years ago (he would have been 50 this year), was promoted by an organization called the Progressive Cultural Association, which Cardew served as secretary. When it comes to proclaiming principles the PCA certainly do not beat about the bush...

That Cardew was measured by the native vision of Utopia envisaged by the Marxist-Leninists was something which appears to have done his later music little good. The predominant atmosphere was of determined darkness. One could sense the composer willingly throwing away his personality for what he genuinely believed was the common good...

Stephen Pettitt

THE WOMEN

A Savagely funny comedy

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE

MARIA AITKEN JUDI BOWKER FAITH BROOK

BARBARA EWING JULIA FOSTER GEORGINA HALE

PATTI LOVE DIANA QUICK ZENA WALKER

and SUSANNAH YORK

Directed by Keith Hack, Sets by Voytek, Costumes by John Bright



THE OLD VIC

Box Office: 01-928 7616 Credit Cards: 01-961 1821

19 November 1986 for a limited season

Royal Opera House

GENERAL DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, is considering the choice of a successor to Sir John Tooley, who is due to retire in July 1989 as General Director, and invites applications for this post.

The General Director is the Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House. He is responsible to the Board of Directors for the co-ordination of artistic policy and the general management of the Theatre and the three companies associated with it, The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet and Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet.

Remuneration and conditions of service will be by arrangement.

Applications should be accompanied by curriculum vitae and the names of three persons to whom the Board may refer. They should be marked in strict confidence and be sent, to arrive not later than December 15th to the Chairman of the Board:-

Sir Claus Moser, KCB, CBE, FBA, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Limited, PO Box 284, London WC2E 7QX.

SEASON EXTENDED

FRANCES DE LA TOUR



LILLIAN

WILLIAM LUCE

LILLIAN HELLMAN

CORIN REDGRANE

SUNS NOV 9,16,23,31 at 4pm

LYRIC THEATRE

TEL: 437 3686/7 434 1550

Our interest rates are going in the right direction.



the Leeds PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

ALL RATES ARE NET. BASIC RATE TAX PAID

THE TIMES DIARY The Iranian Eiraniars

Robert McFarlane's alleged use of a false Irish passport on his "peace" mission to Tehran carries a strong echo of a previous US penetration of Iran.

Wasted effort

David Steel received a shock the other day when he went to Liverpool to film his part for this week's SDP party political broadcast.

Browsing

Has the Labour PR machine caught up with Denis Healey? Lurching in the Commons café the other day, I spied him at the next table.

BARRY FANTONI



'I wonder how the BBC will report that without bias'

Case work

The Museums Association, with what Lady Bracknell would surely have regarded less as mistreatment than carelessness, has lost seven whole museums.

Digital watch

You can always tell when the strain is getting to captains of industry, they start to forget their own telephone numbers.

All-rounder

Having hit himself for six, politically at least, Jeremy Archer none the less retains his place in another arena of controversy.

Blood boiler

I have to tell you that Mrs Thatcher has missed her vocation. While she was Education Secretary in Ted Heath's government

PHS

Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, is to launch an initiative to improve the teaching of English. Here he laments the extent to which television for most children has replaced reading and argues that the language is our greatest national asset

Next to our people, our language is our greatest national asset; it is the essential ingredient of the Englishness of England.

What is it that constitutes a nation? It is the people of England who fashion the shape, create the flavour and determine the direction of our changing national consciousness.

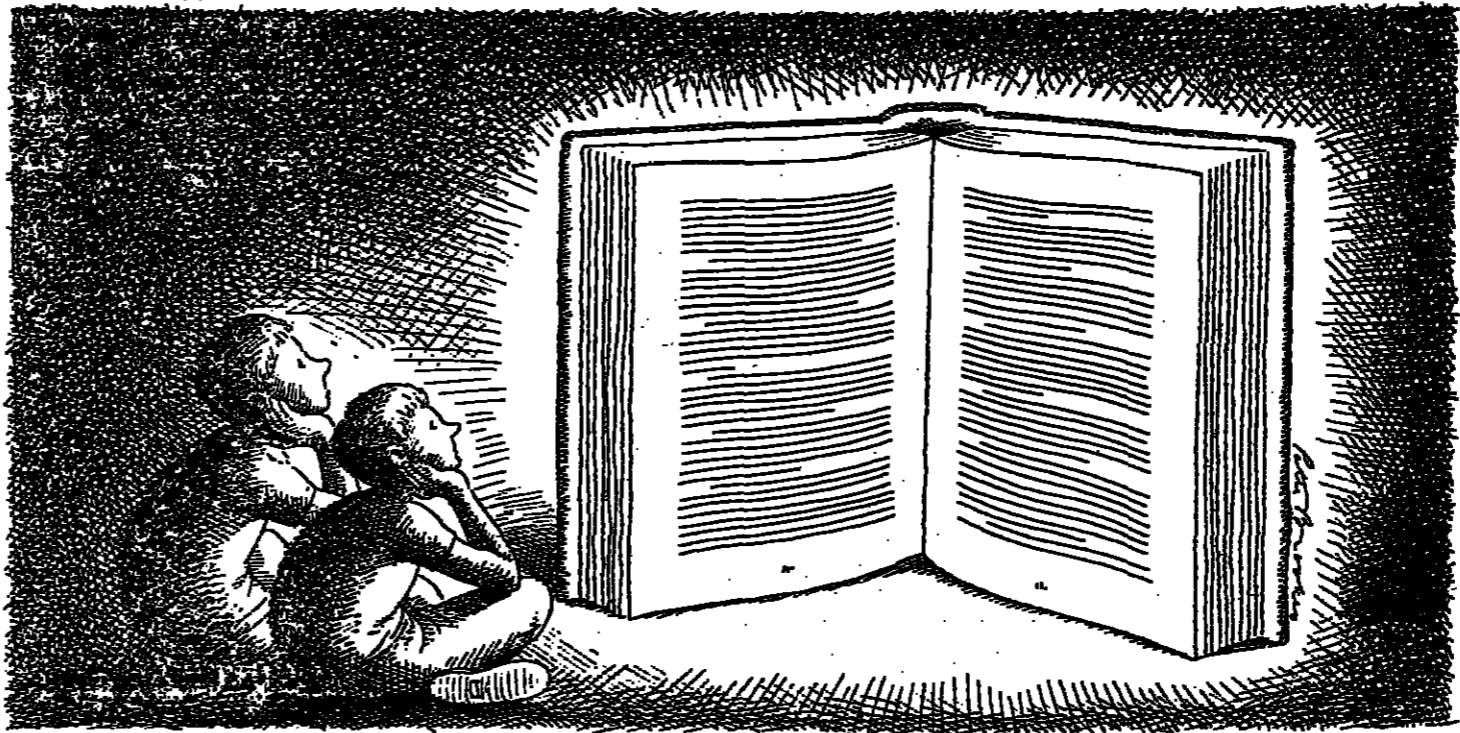
Our language must not be treated as a museum piece; it should be protected from the ebb and flow of daily life, removed from the market place for fear the rough tongues of common men may tarnish and abuse it.

Like a garden a language needs care and attention; it needs cultivation and I am not at all happy that this is happening.

The paper invited comments, HMI received 931 formal representations. It was quite obvious that while there was widespread agreement about the purposes of English teaching, the importance of dealing with language in use, spoken and written, and about the centrality of literature in English teaching, there was no agreement or consistency about what children of various abilities should be expected to achieve by different ages.

What seems clear from what I have seen is the importance of reading, both for its own sake and to build up the other language skills of speaking, listening and writing.

Frequently I hear employers complain that many school leavers applying for a job after 11 years of compulsory education cannot write simply, clearly and without obvious error.



Less box, more books

of television, some of which is excellent and stimulating, but much of which is mundane and brain-numbing.

All TV drama has a tendency to concentrate on intimate human relationships. Perhaps this is dictated by the medium itself.

Books, and the development in children of a love of reading for its own sake, for the enlightenment it can bring, and for the engagement with language and authors, wrestling to create sense out of chaos.

Also there are those who use books as a kind of hurdle to be overcome by dint of dutiful reading in order to answer, without any real understanding, a series of peripheral, pernickety questions.

Interest in reading should not just be left to the teacher or the school. The parent can have a substantial increase in paper-

back sales. It would appear that the public demand reassurance from their global village media that the written form is acceptable or manageable.

I would like to see bench marks for progress in English which actually set out lists of the sorts of books or authors which children should be able to read and understand at particular ages and levels of achievement.

I know that there is more to selecting books for children to read than gauging the difficulty of the language.

It is of course important that the new proper emphasis on the application and practical aspects of subjects as exemplified in the technical and vocational education initiative, in the GCSE and in the new City Technology Colleges, should not lead to any diminution of the appreciation of the magic and potency of literature.

It is of course important that the new proper emphasis on the application and practical aspects of subjects as exemplified in the technical and vocational education initiative, in the GCSE and in the new City Technology Colleges, should not lead to any diminution of the appreciation of the magic and potency of literature.

In particular I want to see a new emphasis on getting every child in

a class to read aloud and commu-nicate with the teacher and with other children, to have confidence in using words in all circumstances; I fear in too many of our schools passivity has been allowed to be the norm.

Education must, as one of its central purposes, make its pupils reflective users of our language; able to understand it as well as to use it; to be in control of it rather than at its mercy.

I have come to the conclusion that a specific new initiative is needed. I will be appointing a high-level independent committee to recommend what pupils in our schools should know about the English language.

One of the great mysteries is that the language of the playground and the market place is the same as that of Shakespeare and Milton.

On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble.

His forest fleeces the Wrekin heaves. The wind it plies the saplings double, And thick on Severn snow the leaves.

But why and how does it flow so smoothly and so sadly; and what do these relatively plain words hint at beyond an autumn wind in Shropshire?

To explore language like this, alongside that used in the thousand and one transactions of our mundane lives, in ways that generate constance, but which do not undermine the confidence to use words with freshness, felicity and vigour, is what I see as good English teaching.

My test of quality is that our children emerge from the process with a love for English; a proper respect for the right words in the right order; and with their linguistic competence enhanced.

Extracted from the Alan Palmer lecture, which Mr Baker will be giving tonight.

There is no doubt that children spend a lot of time looking at television.

I find this depressing. I know there are books and books and too many best-sellers today cynically cash in on a crude formula of sex and violence.

Also there are those who use books as a kind of hurdle to be overcome by dint of dutiful reading in order to answer, without any real understanding, a series of peripheral, pernickety questions.

Interest in reading should not just be left to the teacher or the school. The parent can have a substantial increase in paper-

John O'Sullivan

Don't write off Reaganism



Roosevelt and Eisenhower: both suffered far worse midterm setbacks during their presidencies

pared to 55-43 per cent in the previous midterm elections in 1978 and 1982.

Thirdly, the losses occurred in the middle of his second term when he has only a year of effective government before campaigning for the 1988 congressional elections begins in earnest.

To grasp the novel curiosity of all this, cast your mind back to the midterm elections of 1982. Democrats fought that campaign in the bitterest of terms, damning Reagan as an ideological extremist whose policies would impoverish the country, heighten racial tension, encourage crime, and threaten peace.

indictment had been reduced to the argument that although he was a fine fellow personally, his policies were risky and unpopular.

Now, two years later (when, according to the 1982 predictions, the Tiber should be foaming with blood), Reagan's policies have been rehabilitated as well to the extent that the Democrats either support them or greatly moderate their opposition.

The Democrats are, of course, adapting to popular opinion. The polls have shown a high approval rating for Reagan's policies in general, and large support for certain policies in particular.

moreover... Miles Kington

Rallying round a rival in distress

You sometimes wonder if there is anything sporting about sport any more. Even in a comparatively gentlemanly activity like yachting, the America's Cup seems to be formed by bitter rivalry, while in football it came as no surprise earlier this season to learn that Manchester United players had been inflicting malicious injuries on one another in training.

I have a young friend called Paul Moss who goes rallying - that is, he drives at high speed from one check-point to another down mean streets and along nearly non-existent roads, watching bits of his car drop off and getting from it a pleasure I do not even start to understand.

Of course, there is more to life and politics than statistics of party identification. The Democrats have just received a psychological boost from their capture of the Senate.

When he and his navigator arrived, they found the wheels were so jammed up into the wheel casing that they had to chain the front of the car to a tree and then reverse away rapidly to free the parts.

like an old-fashioned sport, because some of Paul's rival drivers stayed up most of the night, working on the car with him.

The only car in the event which didn't share this spirit of camaraderie was driven by two men who constantly attempted to get the rest disqualified through petty objections.

"So you drove past them with a wave, did you?" I asked. "Couldn't really," said Paul.

As far as I can tell, the hairiest moments came in Mexico, on Highway 51, though it wasn't much of a highway.

Paul drove 3,000 miles in three days from New York to Vancouver just to get to the start, so he was pretty tired when he began. The race was spread over 16,000 miles, which is the equivalent of driving up and down Britain ten times, it was inevitable that sooner or later he would fall asleep at the wheel.

Some of the other cars were lavishly equipped, down to back-up teams and even a film crew. Paul, one of nature's improvisers, had little more than a bag of tools, but even so managed to come first in his class and ninth overall.

John O'Sullivan



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 6: His Excellency Mr Stan Soare was received in audience by The Queen this morning and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Court of St James's.

Abergavenny, the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine and Lieutenant-Colonel John Brewer upon relinquishing command of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Sandy McNeil upon assuming command.

Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles) this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel John Brewer upon relinquishing command of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Sandy McNeil upon assuming command.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.D. Bainbridge and Miss J.M. Buckingham The engagement is announced between Stephen Bainbridge, B.D.S., son of Mr and Mrs A.A. Bainbridge, of Slad, Gloucestershire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.P. Buckingham, of Kidlington, Oxford.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visiting the field of remembrance at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

Painting's origins inspire bidders

A painting which carried an estimate of \$6,000-\$8,000 was sold for \$23,000 (£154,000) at Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday. A long-running saga of an art dealer finished only two days before the sale.

OBITUARY MR HOWARD THOMAS

Creative impresario in British broadcasting

Mr Howard Thomas, CBE, creator of The Brains Trust, a leading figure in the development of independent television, died yesterday at the age of 77.

Dinners

British Paediatric Association Professor John Forfar, President of the British Paediatric Association, presided at a dinner held last night at the Athenaeum Club.

Birthdays today

Air Marshal Sir John Donald, 59; Sir John Egan, 47; the Rev Professor Christopher Evans, 77; Mr Timmy Flint, 34; Dr Billy Graham, 68; Mrs Lucinda Green, 33; Lord Greenhill of Harrow, 73; Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, 56; Dame Gwyneth Jones, 50; Professor Sir Edmund Leach, 76; Professor K. Lorenz, 83; Mr Wolf Mankowitz, 62; Sir Robert Micklethwait, QC, 84; Sir John Muir, 76; Miss Ruth Pittier, 89; Dame Joan Sutherland, 60; Dame Jean Taylor, 70; Baroness White, 77.

White Dove Ball

The White Dove Ball in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund will be held on Wednesday, December 3, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W1.

Prince Georg of Denmark

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Prince Georg of Denmark will be held in Westminster Abbey at 5 pm on Monday, December 1, 1968.

Service Dinner

2nd Punjab Regiment Lieutenant-General Sir John Worsley presided at the annual dinner of the 2nd Punjab Regiment Officers' Association held last night at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall.

Memorial services

General Sir Timothy Cressy Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment, was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, Principal Surgeon, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, who was represented by Major-General Sir David Thorne and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief.

PHILIPS SL* New white-base super long life bulbs. NOW 6000 hours of light for one-quarter the electricity. They directly replace ordinary light bulbs. SL*9 replaces 40W bulb, SL*13 replaces 60W bulb, SL*18 replaces 75W bulb, SL*25 replaces 100W bulb. SL*18D globe lamp - all the benefits of SL* technology in a new modern shape. PHILIPS The World's No. 1 Lightmaker bringing you the Benefits of Better Lighting.

MR LARRY BLONSTEIN

Mr Larry Blonstein, who died in Paris on October 31, aged 59, was a pioneer in British space technology, and was responsible for the success of the first all-British satellite.

HIS HON JUDGE RIGBY

His Honour Judge Rigby, DFC and bar, circuit judge since 1980, died on October 30. He was 69.

Up the 150

Handwritten note: 1.50

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS

AMARIS - On 31st October 1986, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, in Vivian...

DEATHS

BAILEY - On Wednesday November 6th, after a short illness, died...

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BROWN - On 4th November 1986, at 11.30 am, in the presence of...

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BALLANTINE - Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Arthur CBE, DFC, DSC...

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

SWAINSON - Mrs. Eileen May Swainson nee MacLennan...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANT THEIR ONLY HOPE

THE BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION

IF YOU are seeking your will please think of BELDEN...

PLEASE HELP The National Kidney Foundation...

WE'VE HELPED YOU write your will

PLEASE HELP The National Kidney Foundation...

PLEASE HELP The National Kidney Foundation...

PLEASE HELP The National Kidney Foundation...

PLEASE HELP The National Kidney Foundation...

FOR SALE

YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS

ALLERGY TO DUST MITES

BIZET DOING NOTHING WRITING THE CHOPIN LIST

MAISON PLANOIS

WEYHILL NE ANDOVER

CLIPPING QUAY 5/4 Waterfront development...

QUEEN ANNE STYLE curved dining table...

WATERBURY, Victoria and all its surroundings...

FLATSHARE

FLATSHARE

ST JAMES AVE, Palace, 2 bedrooms...

NEW LOW FARES WORLDWIDE

UP UP & AWAY

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

LUXURY MEWS HOUSE

2 double 1 single bedrooms, 2 bathrooms...

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

FLAMINGO TRAVEL

RENTALS

IF you have quality property to let...

PALACE PROPERTIES

SLASHED PRICES KNIGHTSBRIDGE

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

IT'S ALL AT TRAILFINDERS

TRAILFINDERS

HOLIDAY SALE

VENTURE HOLIDAYS

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

DISCOUNTED FARES

WINTER SPORTS

BEST RUN FOR YOUR MONEY

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

Science report: Ozone loss cancer fear. Depletion of atmospheric ozone could more than double the incidence of skin cancer...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRITY CHARITY AUCTION

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

GIVE DIRECT TO CANCER RESEARCH. Harry Combe says: 'What have I got that I can't give?' Diabetes is not infectious but it can strike anyone...

To Place Your Classified Advertisement. Please telephone the appropriate number listed below between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday to Friday...

Pretoria alleges Harare-Maputo plot to oust Malawi regime

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg... definite plan and agreement... Mr Botha said the plan would have entailed forcing President Banda to allow Zimbabwean and Mozambique troops into his territory...

Mr Botha said details of the plot were in a document found at the site of the air crash... Mr Botha produced a copy of the document, still smeared with mud...

According to Mr Botha, the attack on Malawi was imminent... Mr Botha said he had sent an urgent communication to Mr Joaquim Chissano...

Lawson's big spending hints at early poll

Continued from page 1... higher revenue is expected to leave the level of Government borrowing unchanged... Lawson's big spending hints at early poll... On balance the combination of higher spending and...

higher revenue is expected to leave the level of Government borrowing unchanged... Lawson's big spending hints at early poll... On balance the combination of higher spending and...

Gulf women prepare for war



Amid reports that another bloody round of fighting is imminent in the six-year-old Gulf War... The striking young girl (left) clutching a Soviet-made AK-47 rifle is an Iraqi... Reports from Iran suggest that the first 100 women entering military service...

Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets

Continued from page 1... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets...

Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets...

Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets...

Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets... Lawson's U-turn on spending delights wets...

Frank Johnson at the Commons

Early yule season for needy group

Mr Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, amid sudden talk of an early election, yesterday announced emergency help for a group whom the Government regard as especially needy: the voters.

He said he was announcing the Autumn statement on public expenditure. But he was able to say such things as: "Within this overall constraint, and in the context of its policy priorities, the Government has felt it right to allow an increase in the previously announced plan for 1987-88 and 1988-89."

And later: "... public expenditure increases... demand-led programmes... social security... health... social services... more than £600 million."

It was, then, a revival of the old Conservative show of the 50s and 60s, Free-market Boom! Nothing like on the same scale of course. No tax cuts, easing of hire purchase, or dancing girls...

When the time came for him to cross-examine the Chancellor, Mr Hattersley asked how Mr Lawson justified the effect of the rate of economic growth on old-age pensioners... Mr Lawson laboriously answered each of Mr Hattersley's points...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events... Royal engagements... Riding for the Disabled Association...

The Royal Institution... Food prices... Fresh fish prices are up again this week...

Wales and West A38... Roads... Construction of new road on Braemar Ave...

Weather forecast... A trough of low pressure over NW Scotland will move SE...

High Tides... TODAY... High Tides... List of tide times for various locations.

Around Britain... Sun Rain... Table with weather data for various regions across Britain.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,197... Grid and clues for the crossword puzzle.

Top Films... The top box-office films in London... List of movie titles and their performance.

Thames Barrier... The Thames Barrier will close today between 9.45 am and 12.15 pm.

Parliament today... Committees (9.30) and Lords (9.30) Prorogation... Details of the day's parliamentary business.

CONCISE CROSSWORD... Concise crossword puzzle with grid and clues.

Portfolio Gold... Portfolio - how to play... Advertisement for Portfolio Gold investment service.

Yesterday... Temperatures at major weather stations... Table of temperature readings from previous day.

Abroad... AIRMAIL... Table with international news and weather data.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1303.9 (+7.8) FT-SE 100 1648.5 (+4.1) Bargains 32328 (29950) USM (Datstream) 127.97 (+0.63) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4340 (+0.0110) W German mark 2.9526 (+0.0148) Trade-weighted 69.5 (+0.4)

Lawson approval

The stock market gave a cautious vote of approval last night to the package in Mr Nigel Lawson's autumn statement. The Chancellor promised an extra £4.75 billion of spending across the board and also forecast that inflation would be lower than analysts had been expecting.

Government stocks ended the day in a gloomy mood with market-makers interpreting the Chancellor's statement as indicating that interest rates were likely to remain high for some time. Analysts suggested the Chancellor was injecting something like £10 billion into the economy.

But oils recovered. Shell put on 5p to 946p, just 7p down on the day, while BP rallied 5p to 629p, a drop of 16p in all. Elsewhere, leading stocks showed more falls than rises. However, any positive reaction to the Chancellor's measures was tempered by news from Wall Street of a downgrading of profits by IBM, the computer giant.

The pound firmed at the prospect of continuing high interest rates and the trade-weighted index closed up 0.4 at 69.5 on the day. Market report, page 23

Profits jump

Electronics continues to make steady progress. Pretax profits rose 13 per cent to £18.1 million for the six months to September 30 on turnover up 22 per cent to £114.6 million. The dividend was increased 0.3p to 2.2p. Times, page 24

£4.4m Trend

M K Electric Group has paid £4.4 million for 77.6 per cent of Trend Control Systems, a manufacturer of building control systems. The outstanding shares, which are being retained by directors and some employees, will be acquired by MK over four years from June 1989.

Yamaichi joins

Yamaichi International Europe, the London arm of one of the big four Japanese securities houses, has become a full member of the London Stock Exchange. It wants to operate an equity service in London for Japanese institutions.

Avis seesaw

The shares of Avis Europe, which started trading on the stock market yesterday, closed at 239p, having opened at 226p. The offer for sale was priced at 250p, but one-third of the shares were left with the underwriters.

Taiwan tax cut

Taiwan has cut tariffs on 1,843 items to try to open up the Taiwanese market.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Wall Street, Foreign Exchange, Commodities, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes London closing prices, Interest Rates.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Currencies, North Sea Oil.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Currencies, North Sea Oil.

McCorquodale hits back after Opax offer

Norton Opax, the printing and publishing company, yesterday raised its terms yet again for follow primer McCorquodale with a final £165 million offer. Opax announced that it had secured the 19.1 per cent stake held by Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the Daily Mirror, and this took its level of acceptances to 51.1 per cent.

Mr Holloran said that cash would be the real decider in the bid, adding that 35 per cent of McCorquodale had been bought through the market for cash by Opax and Mr Maxwell. In addition, withdrawals of nearly 9 per cent from the previous Opax offer indicated those shareholders must have accepted the cash and wanted to switch to the higher buyout offer.

He said it indicated that only 7 per cent of McCorquodale shareholders had been persuaded to accept Opax paper. Mr Clive Chalk, a director of Samuel Montagu, which is advising Opax, said he was surprised at the speed of the decision by the independent McCorquodale directors to recommend the raised buyout terms. Opax had been seeking a meeting with the directors.

Benson offers M & G shares at 25p below market price

Kleinwort Benson formally announced yesterday the terms for the sale of most of its 42 per cent stake in the M & G investment management group. It is offering shares in M & G at 270p each - about 25p below the price in the market.

The sale of 28 million M & G shares will produce a £64 million profit for Kleinwort, although tax on the profits, according to Mr David Hopkinson, the M & G deputy chairman and managing director, described the shares as "a long-term growth investment which you should buy and tuck away".

September 30, 1986, compares with £10.1 million the year before and £7 million in 1984. M&G estimates that earnings per share have increased by 65 per cent over the past year. It intends paying a final dividend of 3.25p net, against 3p forecast at the announcement of its half-year figures.

Regalian cash call

Regalian Properties, which specializes in turning run-down council estates into marketable private homes, is coming to the market for £35 million in a three for seven rights issue at 32.5p per share. There will also be a one-for-one capitalization issue.

Berkeley pays £18.4m for John Govett

Berkeley Technology, the specialist investment company which offers development funds to growing technology companies, is to acquire John Govett & Co, the fund manager, for £18.4 million.

Oil use 'to rise 2%'

Opex's attempts to force oil prices upwards at its meeting next month may benefit from the latest statistics released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). These show that Western industrialized countries will use 2 per cent more oil next year.

Five Oaks profits rise

Five Oaks Investments' pretax profits for the year ending June 30 were up 40 per cent to £650,514. Net asset value a share, taking this year's £7 million rights issue into account, was 42.74p - a 56 per cent increase. Earnings per share were 9.18p.

European bankers wary of new technology, report says

British banks operate one of the least efficient payments systems in Europe and share many of the shortcomings of Continental banks, such as an inadequate use of market research and a haphazard approach to new technology. A survey of European bankers' attitudes, published yesterday by Retail Banker International, presents a picture of rapid change in retail banking and numerous dangers for existing banking systems for the next 15 years.

Bonds boost

The coupon rate of 10-year Japanese government bonds for issue this month has been raised to 5.4 per cent from 5.1 per cent, but the issue price is raised to ¥99 from ¥97. The move is to stimulate sagging bond prices.

You and your pension

In tomorrow's 10-page Family Money, The Times assesses the implications of Mr Roy Hattersley's plans for pension funds and their impact on the 11 million members of occupational schemes.



John Holloran of McCorquodale with symbol of defiance of the buyout group. The rest is up to the shareholders

Virgin flotation set to raise £255m

Mr Richard Branson, aged 36, the entertainment entrepreneur, is bringing his Virgin Group to market today with an expected price tag of about £255 million.

Existing shareholders, including Mr Branson, will be raising a substantial sum from the sale of their shares. The funds will be used to recapitalize the airline and other interests, to be called the Voyager Group.

The retail division, which last year reported sales of £56 million, should show a return to more normal margins and profits now that the capital spending programme is largely completed. The film, video and broadcasting division is also expected to show some growth this time.

On a striking price of 150p a share, valuing the company at £255 million, the shares would be selling at around 17 times expected earnings for the present year, falling to just over 14 times in the next financial period.

Oil use 'to rise 2%'

Opex's attempts to force oil prices upwards at its meeting next month may benefit from the latest statistics released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). These show that Western industrialized countries will use 2 per cent more oil next year.

Bonds boost

The coupon rate of 10-year Japanese government bonds for issue this month has been raised to 5.4 per cent from 5.1 per cent, but the issue price is raised to ¥99 from ¥97. The move is to stimulate sagging bond prices.

Key Wico staff defect to Swiss Bank Corp

Swiss Bank Corporation International put itself firmly on the Far Eastern securities map yesterday with the recruitment of a significant number of senior personnel from Wl Carr (Overseas), a subsidiary of Exco International.

Mr Andrew Large, chief executive of Swiss Bank Corporation International, said: "We have recently been awarded branch status in Tokyo and have a requirement for experienced people. We were approached by some employees of Wico who were interested in joining us. We are very excited about the opportunities available in the Far Eastern markets. I have no comment to make about the amounts of money involved but we are obviously operating in a competitive marketplace."

Virgin flotation set to raise £255m

Mr Richard Branson, aged 36, the entertainment entrepreneur, is bringing his Virgin Group to market today with an expected price tag of about £255 million.

Excito International recently announced plans to invest £30 million in its Far Eastern stockbroking operation. Part of this was expected to cover the £9.1 million exceptional loss provided at the interim stage to meet settlements made by Wico on behalf of a Japanese client.

Ford bid rejected as Fiat moves for Alfa

Rome (AP-Dow Jones) - Finmeccanica, the Italian state-controlled holding company, has accepted a takeover bid made by Fiat for Alfa Romeo rejecting a rival bid by Ford.

The bid countered a previous offer by Ford Motor for the acquisition of the second-largest Italian car maker in an effort to foil entry of a dangerous competitor on the Italian car market. Fiat, which is controlled by the Agnelli family, bid for at least 51 per cent of Alfa Romeo. Moring, page 28

You and your pension

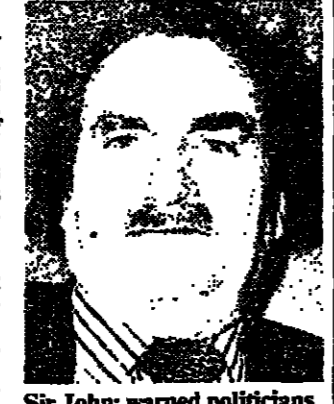
In tomorrow's 10-page Family Money, The Times assesses the implications of Mr Roy Hattersley's plans for pension funds and their impact on the 11 million members of occupational schemes.

Plus the emerging boom in share shops and why platinum has taken over gold's role as the precious investment metal.

Advertisement for Heathrow to Lisbon flights. Text: 'THE BEST CHOICE OF FLIGHTS FROM HEATHROW TO LISBON'. Includes Navigator Class logo and contact information for TAP Air Portugal.

ICI chairman calls for stronger links with universities

By Our City Staff A wide-ranging strategy for greater co-operation between industry and universities was outlined yesterday by Sir John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI.



Sir John: warned politicians about education cutbacks

He said both the industrial concern and the university involved must want the partnership and work at it. Many of these collaborations take years before they really take off, he said.

Japan blames West for trade imbalance

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent British companies were told yesterday that a greater effort was needed if the trade imbalance between Europe and Japan was to improve.

He added: "Another example comes with the assertion... that Japan's distribution system constitutes a barrier to market access for foreign products.

But while the number of Japanese business representatives on long-term assignments in Europe was about 33,000, the number of Europeans in Japan was about 2,000.

Royal Dutch Shell profits jump 27% despite price slump

By David Young, Energy Correspondent Profits of the Royal Dutch Shell Group have increased by 27 per cent in the first nine months of this year despite stock losses approaching £1 billion because of the slump in world oil prices.

Profits compared with only £21 million in the equivalent nine months of 1985. The results in the third quarter of this year were also depressed by charges of £200 million for company reorganization.

General Motors 'to close eight US plants'

Detroit (Reuters) - General Motors has decided to close at least eight US plants with a loss of almost 27,000 hourly-paid workers as part of a cost-cutting drive.

Company sources said an announcement on plant closures was expected imminently.

Shares follow bonds down in early trading

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares slipped in early trading yesterday. Traders said shares were following the lower trend of the bond market.

The Standard & Poor's 100 index was up 0.32 at 327.63.

Table with multiple columns listing stock prices and indices including AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

Why Britons must learn to become foreigners

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry today takes a swipe at all the old established views of the pin-stripe suited British businessman abroad.



Foreignness, however, can have its rewards, says the CBI. "You can represent both a long tradition of craftsmanship and the frontiers of the West."

£84m loss is first at Nissan

From David Watts, Tokyo

Nissan Motor, Japan's second largest carmaker, has returned an operating loss of 19,741 million yen (£84 million) for the six months to September 30.

The company, which opened its first factory in Britain this summer, showed a 38 per cent drop in income for the same period. This is the first time the company has shown a loss.

Hong Kong home loans rise by 33%

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Hong Kong citizens are queuing up to buy their own homes despite fears over the Crown Colony's future when it is handed back to China in 1997.

However, there has been negligible growth in loans to building, construction and property development firms in the latest quarter.

Coloroll interim up 47% to £3.5m

The pretax profits of Coloroll, manufacturer of wallcoverings, ceramics and household textiles, rose 47 per cent to £3.5 million for the half year to September 30.

The dividend was increased by 15 per cent to 2.3p.

Worley Wallcoverings, Biltons and Staffordshire Potteries are thought to have contributed £14 million of turnover.

Onoda profits soar by 80%

Tokyo (AP-DJ) - Onoda Cement, one of Japan's largest cement makers, said yesterday its net earnings for the six months to September 30 increased by 80.2 per cent to 1,150 billion yen.

Table with columns for CANADIAN PRICES listing various Canadian stocks and their prices.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION of Federative Republic of Brazil 8 3/4% External Bonds Due December 1, 1987. Includes list of coupon bonds to be redeemed.

Shareholders treble to 7 million from 1983

By Martin Baker

One person in six in Britain owns shares, according to a survey published yesterday by the financial publicity and marketing consultants, Dewe Rogerson.

However, more than half those taking part in the survey (53 per cent) disagreed with the proposition that they had often thought about investing in stocks and shares.

History of a great shipbuilder

From Robert Rodwell, Belfast

Eager accountancy sleuths will be among the keenest readers of the detailed history of Harland and Wolff, the shipbuilding firm.

Rebeck's reign encompassed the frantic efforts of the Second World War. With the ending of the post-war boom in the early 60s Harland was cut back to its Belfast roots.

Shipbuilders to the World - 125 years of Harland and Wolff by Michael Moss and John R Hume. Published by Blackstaff Press, Belfast, and Lloyd's of London Press, £25.

DILLON, READ & CO. INC. Principal Paying Agent. Dated: November 3, 1986.

COMPANY NEWS. A CAIRD & SONS: Results for the 17 months to June 30 (12 months to January 31, 1985). BASF and Siemens will be based in Mannheim and common operations on January 1.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns: First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement. Lists various financial instruments and their dates.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing market rates for various currencies including New York, London, Frankfurt, and others, with columns for currency, rate, and date.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing sterling rates for various countries like Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, etc.

COMPANY NEWS

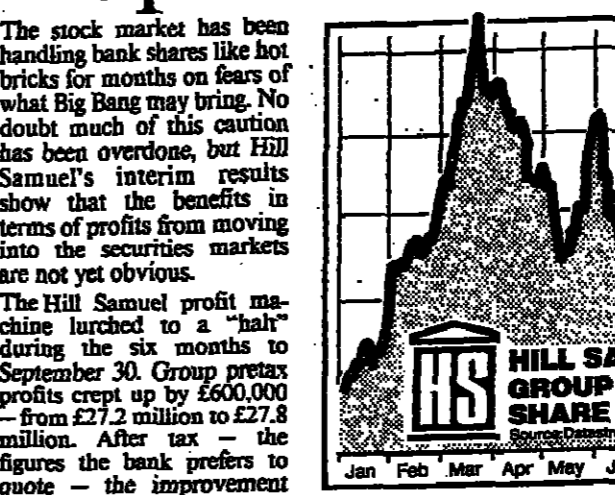
ARBUTHNOT JAPAN GROWTH FUND: Dividend 0.25p (same) for the year to September 30. Gross revenue £13.618 (£15,728), operating expenses £28,688 (£28,743), deficit for the year £15,070 (£3,015).

APPOINTMENTS

Raine Industries: Mr John H Bancroft takes over as financial director. J&J Crombie: Mr Robin Edwards becomes sales and marketing director.

TEMPUS

Hill Samuel 'halt' upsets the market



Electrocomponents

At long last, Electrocomponents has mastered the art of issuing cautious statements about its prospects without distressing the market. Yesterday's interim announcement carried a warning that market conditions were far from buoyant, but the expectation of Mr Tony Chubb, chairman, of further progress during the second half carried the share price up 16p to 369p.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of companies like Mecca Leisure, Miller & Smith, Newsday, etc., with columns for company name, issue size, and price.

GOODE DURRANT & MURRAY GROUP

Discussions are in progress with Impala Pacific Corp, a subsidiary of Ariadne Australia, which owns 20.82 per cent of GDM's ordinary share capital.

GLAXO HOLDINGS

A new £2 million pharmaceutical manufacturing plant for its Pakistan subsidiary was inaugurated in Lahore.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures for three months sterling, three months dollar, and long gold, with columns for open, high, low, close, and volume.

Advertisement for N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, featuring the company logo and details of a private placing of 2,670,000 units of one Ordinary Share and five 5 per cent Convertible Preference Shares.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing money markets and gold prices, including local authority deposits, local authority bonds, and gold prices.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table showing London traded options for various companies like Allied Lyons, BP, Com Gold, etc., with columns for series, call/put, and price.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table showing base lending rates for various banks and financial institutions, including ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

Advertisement for electrocomponents plc, featuring the company logo, trading results and prospects for the first half of 1986, and interim results for 30 September 1986.

INVITATION TO TENDER

Advertisement for a video-tape transfer service for special broadcasting, including details of the service, contact information, and terms of the tender.

Share 150

halt market



SHARE PRICE

OPTIONS

NOVEMBER 14TH AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR BRITISH GAS CUSTOMERS.

URGENT
November 14th
TELL SID

That's the closing date for registration under the special Customer Share Scheme.

If you are a domestic British Gas customer and are thinking of applying for shares, you may be able to do so under this scheme. This gives you the opportunity, if you are eligible and have registered by November 14th, of being guaranteed at least 200 shares should you apply for that many. Of course you

can apply for a lot more if you wish.

So far, nearly 5 million British Gas customers have registered under this scheme. If you haven't done so already, simply fill in the coupon or phone 0272 272 272 to register yourself.

This will not commit you in any way—you can still make your decision on whether to apply a little later on.

In return you will be sent information about the offer and, when they are

published, a prospectus and personalised application form.

Remember, registrations must be in by November 14th if you want to apply under the special Customer Share Scheme.

Everyone can apply for a share of the shares.

ISSUED BY M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS LIMITED ON BEHALF OF H M GOVERNMENT.

Please send me, without obligation, information about the British Gas share offer. (PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

(Tick) MR MRS MS or TITLE (Specify) _____

FORENAME(S) _____

SURNAME _____

ADDRESS (in full) _____

POSTCODE _____

Are you a British Gas customer? YES NO

When complete send to: (Tick) YES NO

British Gas Share Information Office.
P.O. Box 1, Bristol BS99 1BG.

British Gas
SHARE INFORMATION OFFICE

29
...iciency
...which
...ex,
...nd
...rose
...with
...in
...as
...an
...l.
...turn
...of
...the
...from
...7
...nt
...and
...entm.
...gles
...is
...where
...d
...mil-
...10
...mil-
...ex-
...ped-
...ked
...to
...tidine
...which
...it
...not
...is
...are
...f
...this
...stages
...are
...as
...nt
...es-
...AZT
...f
...£70
...nted
...r
...the
...ad
...to
...Shut-
...over-
...read.
...acted
...but
...well
...ion.
...ant,
...over
...and
...sk
...ne
...is

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for fund name, manager, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES table with columns for company name, price, and change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table with columns for trust name, price, and change.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 3pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price.

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading. Includes a list of dates for various events.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table with columns for trust name and price.

COMMODITIES table with columns for commodity name and price.

Handwritten note: 'In price 1.50'

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your right share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Last
1	Argo	Foods		
2	Molins	Industrials L-R		
3	Emas Lighting	Electricals		
4	Alcan	Drugs/Stores		
5	Dewhurst (U)	Drugs/Stores		
6	Nan West	Banks/Discount		
7	Hazlewood Foods	Foods		
8	Charter Cars	Industrials A-D		
9	Publinter	Electricals		
10	Tobacco	Industrials S-Z		
11	TNT	Industrials S-Z		
12	Reed (Amin)	Drugs/Stores		
13	Grampian	Chemicals		
14	Stonhouse	Drugs/Stores		
15	Electronic Mach	Electricals		
16	Yorkshire TV	Chemicals		
17	Moss Bros	Drugs/Stores		
18	Octopus	Newspapers		
19	English China Clay	Industrials E-K		
20	James Street	Electricals		
21	Dr Beaud	Chemicals		
22	Body Shop	Drugs/Stores		
23	Scot (JW)	Industrials S-Z		
24	Feranti	Electricals		
25	Tilbury Group	Building/Roads		
26	Hipgate & Job	Industrials E-K		
27	Ward White	Drugs/Stores		
28	Sleighth	Industrials S-Z		
29	Fitzwilliam	Industrials E-K		
30	Scot & New	Breweries		
31	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z		
32	Gieves	Industrials E-K		
33	Morgan Grenfell	Banks/Discount		
34	Phoenix Timber	Building/Roads		
35	Scot Heraldic	Industrials S-Z		
36	Jarvis (D) & Sons	Building/Roads		
37	Lain	Breweries		
38	HTV NV	Chemicals		
39	Morden (John)	Building/Roads		
40	Whitbread Inv	Breweries		
41	Macarthy	Industrials L-R		
42	Goldsmiths Co	Drugs/Stores		
43	Booker	Breweries		

Please be sure to take account of any minor signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Change

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities remain firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on October 27. Dealings end today. \$Contango day next Monday. Settlement day November 17.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices, taken at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price

No.	Company	Group	Code	Last	High	Low	Company	No.	Company	Group	Code	Last	High	Low	Company	No.	Company	Group	Code	Last	High	Low
BREWERIES																						
BUILDINGS AND ROADS																						
FINANCE AND LAND																						
FOODS																						
CHEMICALS, PLASTICS																						
CINEMAS AND TV																						
HOTELS AND CATERERS																						
INDUSTRIALS A-D																						
DRAPERY AND STORES																						
ELECTRICALS																						
OVERSEAS TRADERS																						
PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G																						
PROPERTY																						
SHIPPING																						
SHOES AND LEATHER																						
TEXTILES																						
TOBACCOS																						
INSURANCE																						
LEISURE																						
MINING																						
MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT																						
NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS																						
OIL																						

Portfolio Gold
 © Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
 £4,000
 Claims required for
 +36 points
 Claimants should ring 0254-53272

iciency
 which
 ex, br-
 and rose
 with in
 as an
 t. Type
 of the
 from 7
 mt and
 return,
 gles is
 where d
 mil-
 10 mil-
 expected
 ked to
 lidine
 which
 it not
 is are
 f this
 stages
 as an
 £27
 f £70
 nted in
 the ad
 to 3m-
 over-
 read,
 and
 but
 well
 in
 ant,
 over
 and
 sky
 is
 11. 0. 1.

© Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interest payment passed d Price at suspension of dividend and yield exclude a special payment e P/E per figure a Forecast earnings b Ex other c Ex rights d Ex scrip or share split f Tax-free No significant data

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Alfa Romeo polishes up the image

Far-reaching changes are in the wind at Alfa Romeo, the state-owned Italian manufacturer of sports cars which has lost its way in recent years but is still one of the proudest names in motoring. It now looks certain to be taken over by Fiat after yesterday's rejection of the rival offer by Ford.

Either giant would add the pragmatic approach borne of vast experience in world markets to the acknowledged but poorly directed talents of Alfa's brilliant engineering team. One thing is certain. Whoever wins will want to keep Alfa Romeo's name and distinctive approach to fast car design.

But it is of the changes taking place much nearer home that I want to write today. Two months ago I reported the shocking story of Mrs Serena Thomas of Hornsea, Hampshire who had been fighting since December 1984 to have her grievances redressed in the first place for a flawed Alfa Romeo 33 and latterly for an equally troublesome Giulietta. The main problem was with so many of the marque was excessive rusting.

I suggested that in view of the countless times both cars had been returned for re spray and other rectification work the only way out appeared to be a financial settlement. Now Mrs Thomas has written to say: "Thank you for your interest and support. I am pleased to be able to say that because of your article on September 12 the problem has now been resolved. The dealership

has taken back the car and paid off the outstanding loan to Mercantile Credit. The only condition was that I bought another car from them. I now have an X-registered Volvo 345 and when I went to pick it up there was a large basket of flowers on the passenger seat - a very nice gesture on the part of the garage."

One of the biggest stumbling blocks facing Mrs Thomas in her battle was the change in ownership of Alfa Romeo GB which took place in April this year when the Italian company sold its subsidiary to the British group Tozer, Kemsley & Milbourn. Maurice Rourke, managing director of the new company, says with commendable honesty that market research at the time showed that motorists had a very poor opinion of Alfa cars. They said they were prone to rusting, unreliable and had a poor resale value.

The residual values problem was almost certainly caused by the excessive discounting which the old company employed to register cars. If you buy a cut price new car you get a cut price valuation when you resell it. Mr Rourke says he has put an end to registering cars and claims that as a result residual values are already improving. The latter will soon show up in trade figures available to the public. But a reputation for rusting and unreliability once acquired takes years to shake off as Lancia are still finding. Rourke insists that there is concrete proof of improvements in both these fields.

Too many times in recent years however Alfa GB executives have said the same and gone on to predict that the company would turn the corner and sales would climb again. Rourke will have none of that. By dropping discounting he admits that sales will fall from around 3,000 last year to 2,300 this year. He was only prepared to speculate on marginal increases over the next 18 months to around 3,000 with a target of 5,000 some three to four years hence. Even 5,000 will still be way below Alfa GB's peak of 13,000 sales in 1979.

When TKM took over it found that the dealer network was a mess. Today a single tier dealer system is being built up. There are about 30 open points to be filled in a network which will eventually number 130.

Finally as an example of the new company's awareness of consumer reaction I would quote the following. First deliveries of the new Alfa 75 reached Britain this summer. Along with other motoring writers I criticized the high pedal mountings which made operating the clutch extremely cumbersome. Engineers at Alfa's Dover headquarters built a mock-up with modified pedal positions and sent it to Milan for approval. They got it almost immediately. Future range hand drive models - they were the only catalyst - will have the new standard when they leave the factory. If you already have an unmodified 75 your dealer will do the work free.

Porsche super power - with a little extra

The 2.5 litre four cylinder Porsche 944, with or without a turbo charger, is by far the company's biggest seller in Britain accounting for nearly half the Porsches sold here last year. Its popularity is well deserved. The cheaper 924 is an excellent sports coupe particularly now that it shares the same genuine Porsche engine as the 944 and not a thinly disguised Audi unit. But its road holding and handling is not in the same class as the superb 944.

Of course there are still those diehard Porsche followers who are scornful of all front engined Porsches like the 944 insisting that the 20-year-old rear engined Porsche

911 remains the only true product of the legendary Ferdinand Porsche and his son Ferry. The 911 has been fine honed year after year until today it represents the zenith of road going rear engined muscle car design but it is quirky to drive particularly in the wet. Get it wrong and the lightly loaded front develops a mind of its own.

It is also physically demanding with a heavy clutch and agricultural gear change. The ride is harsh and ting. 911 owners readily admit these shortcomings but in a way that suggests they welcome them as a challenge to their skill as a driver.

The 944 is much more predictable and forgiving in its handling, more comfortable with a softer ride and altogether a more manageable car. That is not to suggest that it has no real claim to a place in the super car class. Without a turbo it will reach 60mph in 8.4 seconds and has a top speed of 137mph. With a turbo the acceleration is electrifying passing 60mph in only 6.3 seconds and topping 150mph.



Porsche 944S: Smoother, but is it worth the extra?

mance already available it was at first difficult to understand when Porsche recently came out with a new four valves per cylinder version - a 944S - giving only marginally better performance than the normally aspirated 944L and at £23,997 costing an extra £1,445. The answer I discovered is that four valve technology combined with an optimized combustion chamber and a knock sensor regulator allows the new engine to run at maximum efficiency whether fitted with an anti-pollution exhaust gas catalytic converter or not. Most Porsches are sold in two markets: Germany where an increasing number of catalytic equipped cars are being bought and the USA where they are compulsory. On the road you have to go looking for the advantage of the 16 "valves" over the standard engine. It is only when you get into the middle and upper rev ranges that the extra torque and power (up from 163bhp to 190bhp) makes its presence felt. The rev limiter has also been reset to permit a maximum of 6,800 rpm - up from 6,500rpm. The overall effect is to make the car smoother through the gears but not appreciably so. In my view that is not sufficient to persuade me to spend the extra money but then if you are already forking out over £22,000 what does an extra £1,500 really matter?

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

PORSCHE OFFICIAL CENTRES

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS PORSCHE QUITE LIKE FOLLETT

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS PORSCHE QUITE LIKE FOLLETT

FOLLETT

CITY: 170 Aldersgate Street, Barbican, London EC1. 01-606 0776. MAYFAIR: 18 Berkeley Street, London W1. Telephone: 01-629 6266. ST. JOHNS WOOD: 6 Hall Road, London NW8. Telephone: 01-289 2271.

Advertisement for JCT60 car parts and services, including contact information for Leeds.

Waldron PORSCHE

Official Porsche Centre. A choice of other used Porsches for KENT. HART STREET, MAIDSTONE ME16 8RA. Tel: (0522) 352395.

malin PORSCHE

Official Porsche Centre. Henley-on-Thames. Telex 849056 Malin G.

Vital statistics
Model: Porsche 944S
Price: £23,997
Engine: 2479cc 16 valve four cylinder
Performance: 0-62mph 7.9 seconds, maximum speed 142mph
Official consumption: Urban 22.6mpg, 56mph 42.8mpg and 75mph 34mpg
Length: 30.8 feet
Insurance: Group 8/9.

With that choice of performance already available it was at first difficult to understand when Porsche recently came out with a new four valves per cylinder version - a 944S - giving only marginally better performance than the normally aspirated 944L and at £23,997 costing an extra £1,445.

FINLAY GORHAM LIMITED advertisement, Henley-on-Thames, offering various Porsche models.

LONGTON advertisement, offering Porsche 911 SC Sport and Carrera models.

Chris Turner advertisement, Henley-on-Thames, specializing in Porsche 911 and Carrera.

Stocks advertisement, listing various Porsche models and prices.

John Lamb advertisement, CHESTERFIELD, DERBY, offering Porsche 911 Carrera Sport.

PORSCHE 911 Carrera Sport advertisement, offering a 1984 model with various options.

911 SC Sport advertisement, offering a 1984 model with a turbocharger.

PORSCHE 924 LUX advertisement, offering a 1990 model with a 5-speed manual.

SALES SERVICE GENUINE PARTS unashamedly personalised. S. J. ROSSITER (SOUTHSEA), 94-104 Palmerston Road, Southsea, Hampshire PO5 3PT.

CITROËN advertisement, THE ABOVE ARE ON OFFER FROM LONDON'S PREMIER DEALER. SETHOMAS, 01-749 6091.

Colin Grant advertisement, offering various Porsche models for sale.

PORSCHE AT WOODBRIDGE advertisement, offering various Porsche models.

PORSCHE 911 SE Sport 1979 advertisement, offering a 1979 model with various options.

PORSCHE 924 S advertisement, offering a 1988 model with various options.

South West Scotland advertisement, Braehead Garage, Galloway Avenue, Off Whitlows Road, Tel: Ayr 26416.

ALFA ROMEO advertisement, For over 30 years at BOOTS MOTORS, offering various Alfa Romeo models.

MARIO DELIOTTI LTD advertisement, For your new & used Alfa Romeos, offering servicing and parts.

ALFA ROMEO advertisement, IN LANCAIRE & MERSEY CONTACT: CUBLES OF AINSDALE, offering various Alfa Romeo models.

Motorlux advertisement, offering various motor vehicles and accessories.

WOODFORD MOTOR CO. advertisement, THE NUMBER ONE DEALER FOR Alfa Romeo in Essex, offering various Alfa Romeo models.

GR FURLEY & CO LTD advertisement, LANDSDOWN MOTORS, offering various motor vehicles.

THREMA LX TURBO advertisement, offering a 195 BHP 042 hp 72 kwh turbocharged Alfa Romeo.

CHALLACOMBE'S LTD advertisement, offering various motor vehicles and accessories.

OPEL MONZA advertisement, offering a 1984 model with various options.

BLACK FERRARI MONDIAL advertisement, offering a 1984 model with various options.

BEST BUYS advertisement, offering various motor vehicles at discounted prices.

V.W. AND AUDI advertisement, offering various Volkswagen and Audi models.

JOHN GILL advertisement, offering various motor vehicles and accessories.

HONDA advertisement, offering various Honda models.

AUTOS INTERNATIONAL advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

WILLSHIRES advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

SHEEN GATE GARAGE advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

BRETON advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

1985 (DECEMBER) AUDI 100 advertisement, offering a 1985 Audi 100.

LISTERS FOR QUATTRO advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

WARRINGTON advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

WARRINGTON advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

WARRINGTON advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

WARRINGTON advertisement, offering various motor vehicles.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Queueing to start up at the village

Shell UK's enterprise village at Sittingbourne in Kent celebrated its first anniversary this week with its general manager, Bob Crawford, commenting on the reception area because demand for space has been so great he has let his own office to a small business.

conference room has been converted to office space. The village is wholly managed by Shell UK and, leaving aside Mr Crawford's £7,000-a-year part-time salary, paid by head office, it is hoped the venture will break even this year.

Three women who went high-tech

By Sally Watts
Firms with expensive computer systems that they have no idea how to operate are providing start-up business for a new Cardiff cooperative launched by three women who, a year ago, had little knowledge of the new technology.



A cooperative profiting from a market gap: Carol Esposti, left; Helen Paterson, and Deirdre Holland

Many had never been used at all: created difficulties by raising questions about their husbands' financial resources - somewhat irrelevant as two of the women were single parents.

local authority's economic unit, which made a £1,500 grant for equipment. The village had simply been installed and left. Yet some had cost about £12,000. In one case, the person who had brought the system had gone and it was being used as a pot-plant holder.

MR FRIDAY



"How nice to see small businesses creating so much employment"

BRIEFING

A dozen owner proprietors of tourism businesses will get the chance to join a business-development programme at Newcastle upon Tyne early next year at a subsidized cost of only £275.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

NORTHERN CYPRUS Cosmetic factory 600sq feet. Plus flat above 6 miles offshore. On private land, 3 1/2 Domes.

GENERAL MIDLAND BASED ENGINEERING COMPANY (SQA 'A' Graded) Due to expansion has spare capacity on power presses

SNOOKER WINE BAR SHOPS Property in South Hants town for conversion to Snooker Hall, Wine Bar and Retail Shops.

A REAL ESTATE COMPANY IN COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN is looking for an efficient partner with experience in the real estate business to create a sales organisation in England and Scotland.

EX VAP also Sahara Africa, highly qualified and experienced in Law, estate position, business and investment.

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

3M Whisper Telex A real alternative to TELEX BUREAU

BUSINESS FOR SALE In the heart of the English District Ambleside, Cumbria Very well-known VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

SOUTHERN ENGLAND For sale, Catering Equipment/Sundries and Pub Trade Wholesalers.

for only £8 a week. Have you noticed how expensive it can be to use a Telex Bureau? Registration fees. Extra costs for outgoing and incoming telexes.

ARCHITECT W1 Busy central London practice for sale. High reputation and high profits. Major projects in each of the past 3 years.

AD VEHICLE full boarding size for own use or can be rented to others.

PHILDAR WOOL SHOP. Prominent position in W. Midlands City. 7 year lease. Rent £5,000 per annum. £15,000 + S.A.V.

BECOME PART OF A £420M GROWTH INDUSTRY We are looking for licensees to join our growing network of One Hour Photo Centres in the UK.

PHOTO PHOTO Photo Club. 29 Dering Street, London W1R 9AA. Use our Strength to Secure your future.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

AGENTS WANTED AGENTS WANTED We are seeking to appoint Agents to market a new and unique product. As an Agent you can expect immediate visibility and long-term growth.

WATERSIDE STUDIOS OFF LADBROKE GROVE FROM £35 A WEEK is where, for less than the cost of many a damp Soho basement, you can get a sparkling newly built, studio/office/workshop in a huge Victorian chocolate factory overhanging the Grand Union canal in North Kensington.

HOTELS & LICENSED PREMISES FEWSEY VALE, WILTSHIRE Very valuable freehold. Substantial 18th Century house public house set in 7 acres. Development and expansion potential.

BRILLIANT NEW CONCEPT IN TEXTILE WALL-COVERING Building Products & Processes. Mr. P. Jobb, Director. 167 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4SQ

LOOKING FOR A GLASGOW BASE? WORRIED ABOUT COST? We can solve your problem. No need to employ reception/secretarial staff or install expensive equipment.

WALES Exceptional modern, purpose-built 25 bedroom Hotel with extensive functions rooms in popular location.

MANAGING DIRECTOR TO £30,000 + EQUITY + BONUS. Are you a business manager looking for a major career step? Do you have a proven track record in a major business?

HOVE, SUSSEX BY THE SEA. A FINE RESTAURANT. 150 covers, sea frontage. Rare opportunity - SOLE AGENTS HAYLOR AND SAWYER

WINE BAR In busy West Midlands City. Only recently opened and already the hottest bar in town! Equipped with the latest bar equipment.

TELEX A COMPLETE TELEX SYSTEM FOR £795 + VAT PHONE SYNTRA 01-582 2958 FOR DETAILS

Your new TELEX Machine from £549 + VAT B.C.S. Limited 01-735 8171

£285,000 HISTORIC AND MUCH FAMED SOUTH DEVON FREEHOUSE. Occupying an excellent trading position and in immaculate order throughout.

BUSINESS BOOKS MISSED BUSINESS LANCER CO. 2000 copies. £25,000. Tel: 0254 397277

EXPANDING COMPANY urgently requires fresh food building 4,000-5,000 sq ft in or near a city or major town in Southern England.

HELLIKER HOGG & CO. (0212) 477338 Send for free list of all countries, all prices, S.A.T. & P.A.T. rates.

LOANS & INVESTMENT MANUFACTURING Company in North London selling ready to go plant and equipment.

URGENTLY REQUIRED sales agents with strong retail chemist connections in London area to sell for Cantinas trade.

COMPANY NOTICES ANNOUNCED BY: ANNE'S GENERAL TRADING CO. SHAREHOLDERS to hold on Wednesday, 26th November 1986.

BUILDING SUPPLIES & SERVICES STEEL FABRICATION AND LIGHT ENGINEERING With design and build capacity in steel, aluminium, and non ferrous, also hydraulics.

PRESSURE VESSELS 8 available, 3,500 psi. 45ft long x 4ft 6in dia. EX NITROGEN STORAGE. Spec. and photos available by return.

COMMERCIAL PRINTERS THE SUPERIOR PACKAGE A FULL COLOUR PROMOTIONAL LEAFLET FROM £160 INTERESTED? For a SUPERIOR deal contact JAMES to see details and our price book on 0225 70301

TECHNICAL PARTNERS Wanted by large factory & several water treatment in Africa. Western Europe. General Manager. 75-76 Rose Bank Road, London E17 8NH. Tel: 296985

COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES WANTED: IBM PC, Macintosh, etc. Also high speed printing, scanning, etc. Reply Box 114

PACKAGING MATERIALS MARRAS prices. Best quality. 2000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

PARTNER SOUGHT WITH ENERGY AND IMAGINATION to assist with the operation and management of a Prestige Heritage, Tourism and Cultural Project in the South of Scotland. Box No. A21.

MANUFACTURER'S AGENTS Required to sell well-established range of filter bins and environmental products to Local Authorities and similar outlets.

SECURITY SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO RUN YOUR OWN MANAGEMENT TRAINING CONSULTANCY? YOU MUST BE 35/45 HAVE BOARD LEVEL EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE EXCELLENT PRESENTATION SKILLS I WILL PROVIDE PROVEN 2 AND 3 DAY COURSES TRAINING SKILLS HELP TO SET UP YOUR BUSINESS SEND YOUR CV PLUS THE ATTRIBUTES YOU HAVE TO RUN YOUR OWN TRAINING COMPANY.

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

COMMISSION AGENTS Importers of the best quality wine with proven track record. We are looking for people who will develop the market for wine in their area.

WHOLESALEERS BATHROOMS. Call 36 contractors. 1000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNISHERS JUST DESKS Period and Restoration Desks, Filing Cabinets, Writing and Boardroom Tables, Desk Chairs.

WHOLESALEERS BATHROOMS. Call 36 contractors. 1000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNISHERS JUST DESKS Period and Restoration Desks, Filing Cabinets, Writing and Boardroom Tables, Desk Chairs.

WHOLESALEERS BATHROOMS. Call 36 contractors. 1000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNISHERS JUST DESKS Period and Restoration Desks, Filing Cabinets, Writing and Boardroom Tables, Desk Chairs.

WHOLESALEERS BATHROOMS. Call 36 contractors. 1000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNISHERS JUST DESKS Period and Restoration Desks, Filing Cabinets, Writing and Boardroom Tables, Desk Chairs.

WHOLESALEERS BATHROOMS. Call 36 contractors. 1000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

URGENTLY REQUIRED Companies or agents having contact with businessmen complete particular locations required to market unique, patented product.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNISHERS JUST DESKS Period and Restoration Desks, Filing Cabinets, Writing and Boardroom Tables, Desk Chairs.

WHOLESALEERS BATHROOMS. Call 36 contractors. 1000 copies. A complete range. Tel: 02021 325 4922

RACING: WORCESTER WINNER REMAINS ON HANDY MARK

Fudge Delight to make fitness tell against Hennessy entries

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With one eye upon the Hennessy Gold Cup, it should prove most informative to watch the Allied Dunbar Handicap Chase at Cheltenham today...

should be better this season following an operation in the spring, Nicholson went on to say that he will still be a little surprised if he manages to win this afternoon...

Charter Party ended last season in a blaze of glory at Cheltenham by winning the Ritz Club Chase at the National Hunt Festival and the Golden Hunter Chase in this instance...

At Worcester, Fudge Delight gave Eton Rouge 4lb and beat him by a neck. Now they will be carrying the same weight...

both the third, Fitzherbert, and the fourth, Burnt Oak, have won.

Good ground will help the Whitbread winner, Plundering, on his seasonal debut but the fact still remains that he was beaten 20 lengths by Charter Party here in the spring...

No matter how Charter Party fares, Nicholson and his young jockey, Richard Duwoody, still look the combination to follow in the John Seyffried Mickleton Chase with French Union...

Also a winner at Cheltenham and Newbury last season, French Union is a fluent jumper of fences on good ground and I doubt very much whether either Music Be Magic or Captain Dawn will be able to give him this amount of weight.

At Doncaster, I have no intention of deserting my Cesarewitch fancy, Misrule, even though he will be meeting both Accuracy and Path's Sister on rather worse terms than he did at Newmarket...

So say things did not exactly go according to plan for Misrule in the Newmarket stamina test would be an understatement. The nearest he got to winning was passing the line and afterwards his connections had a tail of woe to tell...

Carson should complete a double on Queen Helen in the Royal British Legion Stakes. Last time out my selection ran the race of her life at Newbury where she finished third to the Italian and Verd'Antique in the St Simon Stakes.



Astral (Dale McKeown) clears the last flight in fine style on his way to an impressive first success over hurdles at Kempton Park yesterday (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Smyth adds another string to his bow

Ron Smyth unveiled another smart juvenile prospect at Kempton Park yesterday when Astral, a winner on the Flat for Paul Cole, won the Spring Three-Year-Old Novices' Hurdle by 12 lengths from Spring Flight...

CHEL TENHAM

Selections By Mandarin: 1.00 Fifty Bucks, 3.55 Desert Harz, 2.10 Corbit Coins. 2.45 FRENCH UNION (nap), 3.20 Fudge Delight, 3.55 Saffron Lord.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.55 Saffron Lord.

Guide to our in-line racecard

Racecard number, Draw in brackets, Six-figure race time, Five-figure starting price, Owner's name, Trainer's name, Race name, Distance, Time, Date, and Race type.

Going: good to firm

Table of race results for Cheltenham, including race numbers, names, and jockeys.

FORM

The four-race main event (11-7) at Worcester was a 2-race event at Cheltenham (20-20), 2000m, firm, Sept 28. FIFTY BUCKS should improve at this trip on 7/2 (10-12) to Joint Sovereign (10-12) at Worcester (2m, F1888, good to firm, Oct 23, 10 run). HINTER CITY (11-3) 2nd of 12 to Knight of the North (10-12) at Worcester (2m, F1888, good to firm, Oct 23, 10 run).

1.35 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ST JOHN & RED CROSS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (22,295: 2m) (8 runners)

Table of race results for Gloucestershire St John & Red Cross Handicap Hurdle.

FORM

DESSERT HERO (11-7) is a lightly raced, and was seen at his best in 1985/86 when beating Don 10/1 (10-10) in his only race and distance (1825, good, Apr 12, 1 run). FRENCH UNION (10-13) 2nd of 12 to Knight of the North (10-12) at Worcester (2m, F1888, good to firm, Oct 23, 10 run).

2.10 PHILIP-CORNES NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,626: 3m 10) (14 runners)

Table of race results for Philip-Cornes Novice Hurdle.

FORM

BOMAZA BOY A/N/J Flat race winner here in October made an encouraging hurdling debut (71-0) when he beat Don 10/1 (10-12) at Worcester (2m, F1888, good to firm, Oct 23, 10 run).

2.45 JOHN SEYFFRIED MICKLETON CHASE (E4,405: 2m) (5 runners)

Table of race results for John Seyffried Mickleton Chase.

FORM

CAPTAIN DAWN'S winning run came to an end at Ascot last week (2m). Previously he had won the 4-Runner Handicap (10-12) at Worcester (2m, F1888, good to firm, Oct 23, 10 run).

3.20 ALLIED-DUNBAR HANDICAP CHASE (E4,331: 3m) (6 runners)

Table of race results for Allied-Dunbar Handicap Chase.

FORM

CHARTER PARTY (10-10) showed improved form here in beating PLUNDERING (11-0) 20/1 (2m, F1888, heavy, Apr 16, 8 run). PLUNDERING (10-6) went on to win the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown in a photo finish with Sceptre (11-0) 2m (2m, F1888, heavy, Apr 16, 8 run).

3.55 BRITISH REEF COMPANY HURDLE (E3,002: 2m) (6 runners)

Table of race results for British Reef Company Hurdle.

FORM

SAFFRON LORD (11-3) confirmed his well being with a win over Tingle Bell (10-12) at Newbury (2m, F1888, good, Oct 24, 8 run) with YALE (11-0) another 5/10 (2m, F1888, good, Oct 24, 8 run).

Masterplan completes double and repays debt to Morshead

Sam Morshead, whose career was almost ended after a bad fall from Masterplan at Warwick 12 months ago, completed a 545-1 double on the same horse at Stratford yesterday.

Masterplan was a 20-1 chance, but it was all the running in the De Vere Hotel's Novices' Chase and was the only one of the 11 runners not to put a foot wrong.

Morshead was a well-conducted Masterplan dived up over hurdles in a race at Warwick on November 28 last year and suffered headaches for months afterwards.

Masterplan's trainer, Pam Sykes, said: "I think the horse owed Sam that one. Masterplan also missed the start of the race at Warwick on November 28 last year and suffered headaches for months afterwards.

Masterplan's trainer, Pam Sykes, said: "I think the horse owed Sam that one. Masterplan also missed the start of the race at Warwick on November 28 last year and suffered headaches for months afterwards.

Rogairio initiated the Morshead double when making all the running to spring a 25-1 surprise in the Hawkes Bay Trophy. Morshead, putting up 1lb overweight on the 10-year-old, had to work hard for victory but the combination never looked like filtering and was the second last forged into a 12-length lead.

Rogairio's trainer, Peter Bailey, said: "He has been very well at home and I think he will have a run. He is a smashing old horse. I'm very fond of him and he has always got on well with Sam Morshead."

Rogairio kept galloping last year so he had the soft palate operation during the summer. He has got one strange-looking joint and is usually lame for a fortnight after a race.

There was an even bigger turn-up in the Archie Scott Memorial Gold Cup when that stayer, Anico, fought off the odds-on favourite, Morshead, to score by 2 1/2 lengths at 33-1. "Anico was going to go chasing but after this he'll have to stick to hurdling for a bit," said the winning trainer, Gillian Jones.

Ramadi Dawn, in the frame in all his five starts last season, finally broke the ice in the First Division of the Southern Cross Novices' Hurdle thanks partly to a change of riding tactics.

Kevin Mooney had the 7-4 favourite in front from the start and soon after halfway he was looking round to see what had happened to the others. The only one able to give any sort of chase in the last half mile was the other grey in the field, My Son My Son, but he was never a threat to the winner.

A 10lb penalty still left Severn Sound 70 out of the handicap in the Warrambool Trophy but he stormed in by 2 1/2 lengths from Just Allick to record his third win in less than three weeks. His owner-trainer, Bill Whittell, said: "Severn Sound from a mare that had won him 24 point-to-points, will have the gelding out again in another week or so."

Claudio Kirk, who put 10 lengths between herself and her market rival, Keynes, on the run-in in the second division of the Southern Cross Novices' Hurdle, looks a very bright prospect for Stan Mellor, who said: "She jumps really well, stays, loves the game and does everything with her ears pricked. She'll win something decent one day."

Kempton results

Table of race results for Kempton Park.

Stratford

Table of race results for Stratford-upon-Avon.

Blinked first time

Doncaster: 2.15 Witty Bank, 2.45 Shamrock, 3.15 Good Natured, 3.45 Shamrock.

BANGOR

Table of race results for Bangor.

1.0 COLIN TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (E505: 2m) (16 runners)

Table of race results for Colin Turner Photography Conditional Jockeys Selling Hurdle.

2.0 MOLD HANDICAP CHASE (E1,777: 3m) (8 runners)

Table of race results for Mold Handicap Chase.

2.30 JONES & SON, AUCTIONEERS NOVICE CHASE (E2,045: 2m 4f) (14 runners)

Table of race results for Jones & Son, Auctioneers Novice Chase.

3.0 NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (E1,173: 2m) (20 runners)

Table of race results for National Hunt Flat Race.

DONCASTER

Selections By Mandarin: 1.15 Knockin' Express, 1.45 Gold Loft, 2.15 Misrule, 2.45 Sandall Park, 3.15 Queen Helen, 3.45 Dowsing.

By Michael Seely: 2.15 WITTY BANK (nap), 3.15 Queen Helen.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 KNOCKIN' EXPRESS.

Going: good Draw: low numbers best

Table of race results for Doncaster.

1.45 WESTERN DESERT SELLING HANDICAP (E1,508: 1m) (20 runners)

Table of race results for Western Desert Selling Handicap.

2.15 UNKNOWN SOLDIER HANDICAP (E3,464: 2m) (22 runners)

Table of race results for Unknown Soldier Handicap.

2.45 NORMANDY BEACHES NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,918: 6f) (14 runners)

Table of race results for Normandy Beaches Nursery Handicap.

3.15 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STAKES (E3,672: 1m 6f 12yds) (17 runners)

Table of race results for Royal British Legion Stakes.

3.45 DUNKIRK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: Div 1: £1,176: 6f) (23 runners)

Table of race results for Dunkirk Maiden Stakes.

4.00 UNBROKEN MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: Div 1: £1,176: 6f) (23 runners)

Table of race results for Unbroken Maiden Stakes.

4.30 DUNKIRK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: Div 1: £1,176: 6f) (23 runners)

Table of race results for Dunkirk Maiden Stakes.

Course specialists

Table of course specialists for Doncaster.

TENNIS Boys from Austria on way to the top

From Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent Antwerp

Two teenagers called Horst Skoff and Thomas Muster have changed the tennis wilderness into the top 50, which is where the money is. They are hardly household names...

Muster has beaten Ramesh Krishnan and Brad Gilbert to win a minimum of about £33,500 by reaching the last eight of the European Community Championship...

On Wednesday evening there was a connoisseur's match in which "The Big Cat", Miloslav Mecir, beat the quick and crafty Paul McNamee...

More gold in a night than in one season Wrexham raked in more revenue from their away-goals defeat by Real Zaragoza...

Overseas associations remain puzzled by the fact that British tennis has so little to show for its years of huge handicaps...

The fact remains that, by international standards, Britain's leading tennis clubs are doing well...

US NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston 103, Indiana 92, Dallas 102, Detroit 109, Washington 103, San Antonio 112, New Jersey 103, Philadelphia 107, Milwaukee 101, Utah State 111, Cleveland 102, Portland Trail Blazers 92...



Hand-to-hand combat: David Bryant (left), the old master of English bowls, and young Irishman, Rodney McCutcheon, signal their intentions at the CIS UK championships

The rebels trying to assassinate the King

With the exit from the tournament of the Scottish internationalists, Wood and Watson, the average age of the quarter-finalists in the CIS United Kingdom singles championship at the Preston Guild Hall has dropped to 26 years...

Football: Foreign league screenings impaired by FA interference

Sadly blind to a vision of beauty

The Football Association has blocked a move to show foreign league games live on television. Gilbert looks rather like the director of half of the Starsky and Hutch TV series...

Senior executives at ITV were so impressed by the FA's lack of vision that they considered taking legal action. They were advised by their own lawyers that the FA's case appeared to be "watertight"...

Rugby Union

Play fair and fair play is the need

The sending off of Adrian Owen, the Bridgend captain, in the match against Bristol, is further demonstration of any more were needed, that rugby exists precariously on the fine edge of robust aggressive play...

The referee, in taking the action he did, must have seen it differently. Hogg's face reflected his sympathy and was not to be interpreted as an expression of irony...

All glued to the box

Zurich (Reuters) - A television audience of 580 million watched the 1986 World Cup final between Argentina and West Germany in Mexico City on June 29.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) said it was pleased that the match was one of the largest television audiences recorded. The 1982 final in Madrid between Italy and West Germany attracted an audience of 450 million people.

Scots aspiring to the aristocracy A touch of irony as holders go out

Rangers and Dundee United expect to meet formidable opposition when the draw for the third round of the UEFA Cup is made in Zurich today. Scotland's remaining representatives in European competition have performed with distinction but they realize that the clubs left in are comprised mainly of the elite...

A missed penalty proved influential in Bucharest where European Cup holders Steaua, bowed out against Anderlecht. The trophy in Seville six months ago when Gavrila Balcin converted the decisive spot-kick in a shoot-out against Barcelona.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

- EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Austria Vienna 1, Bayern Munich 1 (agg: 1-1); Dynamo Dresden 1, Borussia Dortmund 1 (agg: 2-2); Dynamo Kiev 3, Celtic 1 (agg: 4-2); Juventus 1, Real Madrid 1 (agg: 2-2); Porto 3, Viktoria 0 (agg: 3-1); Real Saragosa 4, Real Zaragoza 2 (agg: 6-2); Real Zaragoza 2, Real Saragosa 0 (agg: 4-2); Real Zaragoza 2, Real Saragosa 0 (agg: 4-2)...

Value for money in Portugal

Ian Peck, master in charge at Bedford, reports a thoroughly enjoyable half-term visit to Portugal with the first game lost (6-0) to the hosts and a good win thereafter, against Lisbon Combined XV (23-12) and Belemense (26-0). Thirty six boys and four staff made the trip and the 2nd XV also registered a good win.

Captain Arica dropped from Turkey squad

Ankara (Reuters) - The Turkey captain, Erdogan Arica, said to be disheartened after their 4-0 European Championship qualifying defeat by Yugoslavia on Wednesday...

FOR THE RECORD

- BASKETBALL: PRESIDENTIAL NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: Detroit Pistons 93, New York Knicks 89; Los Angeles Lakers 100, San Antonio Spurs 87; Boston Celtics 102, Dallas Mavericks 80; Phoenix Suns 103, Houston Rockets 85; Chicago Bulls 101, Utah Jazz 88; Cleveland Cavaliers 99, Golden State Warriors 92; Portland Trail Blazers 92...

TO PLACE YOUR PERSONAL COLUMN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES TRADE ADVERTISERS TEL: 01-481 1920 ADVERTISING FAX NO. 01-481 9313 TELEX 925088 PRIVATE ADVERTISERS TEL: 01-481 4000 USE YOUR ACCESS OR BARCLAY CARD Can you always get your copy of The Times? Dear Newspaper, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times NAME ADDRESS

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Steel fist in the velvet glove of Chopin

Perhaps not everybody watching Witold Starecki's Omnibus film Chopin in Flowers (BBC1, 10.25pm) will fully understand what a Polish intellectual means when, casting about for the musical metaphor that best makes his political point, he describes his country's present predicament as that of a nation in tempo rubato. Other Polish contributors to this documentary that works hard to establish a strong link between the music of Chopin and his homeland's long history of defiance of oppression, reinforce the argument with sentiments that are starkly contemporary. There is a clear hint, for example, about Solidarity and its supporters in the statement that "if you can't do anything yourself, you begin to live vicariously through symbols." If it is true, then, that the voice that speaks through

CHOICE

Chopin's music is as revolutionary as it is romantic, it seems like an act of folly that when General Jaruzelski imposed martial law on Poland in 1981, he ordered the radio stations to relay a non-stop programme of Chopin to keep the nation calm. Clearly, he had not heard about what the Schumann said about Chopin's music. Cannon hidden in flowers is how he put it, adding that the Czar would probably have banned the "simple and romantic pieces" had he realized what a dangerous enemy was lurking inside them.

Measure Palaces (Channel 4, 3.30). Dee Dee Glass's repeated series about British cinemas, ends today with flashbacks to the late Twenties and early Thirties, when people would go to the pictures to

celebrate a wedding anniversary, when the foyers of the super-cinemas were made magnificent by replicas of Buckingham Palace candelabra, and when white-gloved cinema managers held staff inspections that even took in the examination of finger nails. But the particular strength of this documentary series has been its special awareness. There are reminders this afternoon of the jobs lost in the Depression years who crowded into the local "bleat-pit" for warmth and, as they watched the screen idols of the day warbling optimistic ditties such as Keep Your Sunny Side Up, and Happy Days are Here Again, found much-needed reassurance of better times to come. Highlights of today's 50 Years of BBC Television celebrations are the Yvonne Hughes episode of Alan Bleasdale's play sequence

Boys from the Blackstuff (BBC2, 9.45pm); Jonathan Miller's adaptation of M R James's genuine scary ghost story Whistle and Yo (BBC2, 12.25am) which Miller also directed in characteristically intelligent style; and the Stanley meets Livingstone episode from Christopher Ralling's drama documentary series The Search for the Nile (BBC2, 8.00pm). Radio choice: Michael Frayn's translation of Yuri Trifonov's bitter-sweet comedy Exchange (Radio 3, 7.30pm), with Michael Jayston as the sorely-ried husband and son; and the Kadavale sound verdict (Radio 4, 9.45pm) on what we have heard so far of Peter Buckman's adaptation of Thackeray's Pandora. Episode two is on Radio 4, at 3.00pm.



Peter Davalle Colin Firth and Carmen du Sautoy get to grips in the third episode of Lost Empires. (ITV 9.00pm)

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceetax AM.
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Debbie Greenwood.
9.05 Freshers.
10.25 Philip Schofield with news of children's television.
10.55 Five to Eleven.
11.30 Open Air.
1.00 News with Martyn Lewis.
2.00 The Liver Birds.
3.50 Whizz.

BBC2

- 9.00 Ceetax.
9.35 Daytime on Two.
12.00 Verbal powers of persuasion.
6.00 Travellers' Tales.
7.30 Call Me Mister.
10.25 Omnibus.
11.15 Championship Bowling.
11.45 Bodyline.
1.15 Weather.

BBC 2

- 9.25 Thames news headlines.
9.35 Schools: understanding our own.
9.00 Ceetax.
9.35 Daytime on Two.
12.00 Verbal powers of persuasion.
6.00 Travellers' Tales.
7.30 Call Me Mister.
10.25 Omnibus.
11.15 Championship Bowling.
11.45 Bodyline.
1.15 Weather.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines.
9.35 Schools: understanding our own.
9.00 Ceetax.
9.35 Daytime on Two.
12.00 Verbal powers of persuasion.
6.00 Travellers' Tales.
7.30 Call Me Mister.
10.25 Omnibus.
11.15 Championship Bowling.
11.45 Bodyline.
1.15 Weather.

CHANNEL 4

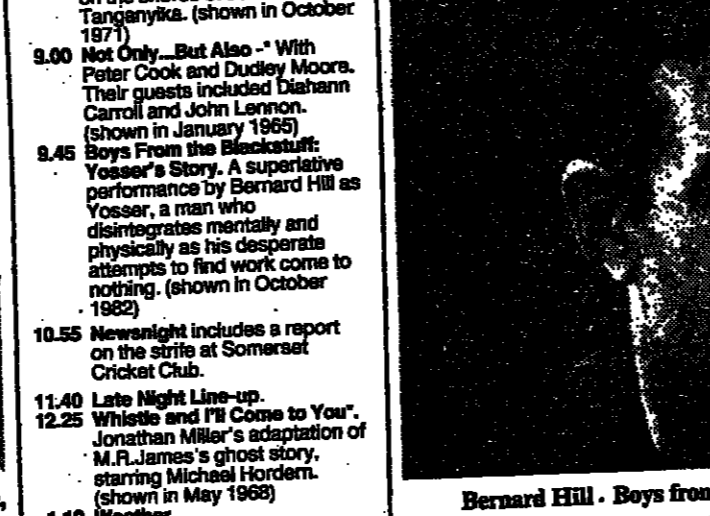
- 2.30 Gallery.
3.30 Countdown.
5.00 Car 54.
5.30 The Tube.
7.00 Channel 4 News.
7.50 Book Choice.
8.00 What the Papers Say.
8.15 A Week in Politics.
9.00 Gardeners' Calendar.
11.30 Film: Persona.

VARIATIONS

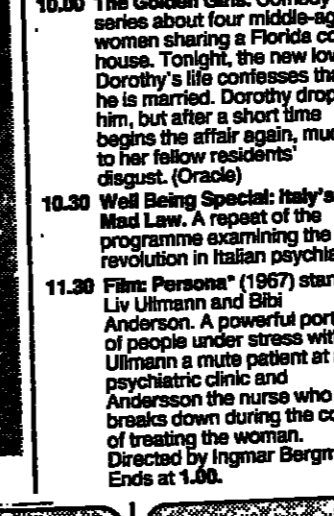
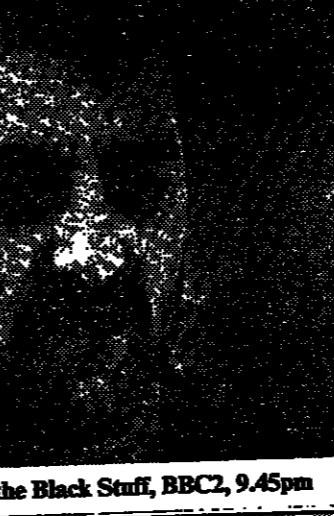
- BBC1 WALES: 6.55am-9.00am Wales Today.
BBC1 IRELAND: 10.15am-10.30am Irish News.
BBC2 WALES: 8.30am-8.55am Wales Today.
BBC2 IRELAND: 10.15am-10.30am Irish News.
GRANPIAN: 1.30pm-1.45pm Granpian News.
ULSTER: 1.30pm-1.45pm Ulster News.
TYNE TEES: 1.30pm-1.45pm Tyne Tees News.
YORKSHIRE: 1.30pm-1.45pm Yorkshire News.
CENTRAL: 1.30pm-1.45pm Central News.
BORDER: 1.30pm-1.45pm Border News.
HITV WEST: 1.30pm-1.45pm Hitv West News.
HITV WALES: 1.30pm-1.45pm Hitv Wales News.
TVS: 1.30pm-1.45pm TVS News.
S4C: 1.30pm-1.45pm S4C News.
ANGLIA: 1.30pm-1.45pm Anglia News.
SCOTTISH: 1.30pm-1.45pm Scottish News.



Peter Davies, deputy curator of the Hancock Museum, Newcastle, is taken for a ride by David Bellamy. (ITV 5.00pm)



Bernard Hill. Boys from the Black Stuff, BBC2, 9.45pm



Advertisement for Calais, featuring a large scenic image of the port and the text 'it's quicker by miles - Dover' and 'Calais - the shortest route to France'. The ad includes details about the port's facilities, shipping schedules, and contact information. It also lists various television and radio programs and their frequencies.

SPORT

Ferguson lined up for United

Scot in shoes of the Big Man

By Hugh Taylor
Sharp is the word for Alex Ferguson...



Ferguson: relentless power and touches of good old fashioned Scottish style...

It was due almost entirely to Ferguson, who combines street wisdom, awesome grasp of modern football knowledge...

Ferguson, who also managed St Mirren, can be temperamental but a quick temper does not suffer fools or inquisitive sports reporters gladly...

McNeill's sympathy

Billy McNeill, the Aston Villa manager who was Ron Atkinson's opposite number at Manchester City for three years, yesterday expressed sympathy for the departed Old Trafford manager...

By Clive White

Alex Ferguson, who led Scotland during the World Cup in Mexico, is expected to become the next manager of Manchester United following the dismissal yesterday of Ron Atkinson...

The Old Trafford board has cast envious eyes north ever since Ferguson led Aberdeen to Victory in the Cup Winners' Cup final three years ago...

A year in the life of Manchester United

Table with 2 columns: November 1985 - Top, November 1986 - Bottom. Lists clubs like Manchester United, Liverpool, Sheffield Wed, Chelsea, Arsenal, West Ham United and their stats.

On November 6, 1985, Ron Atkinson's unbeaten Manchester United led the first division by ten points. A year later, on the day of Atkinson's dismissal, United were third from bottom...

United's recent managers

Matt Busby - appointed Oct 1945, retained May 1970.
Walter McGuinness - appointed Aug 1970, sacked Dec 1970.
Sir Matt Busby - temporary return as team manager Dec 1970 - Jun 1971.
Frank O'Farrell - appointed Jun 1971, sacked Dec 1972.
Tommy Docherty - appointed Dec 1972, sacked Apr 1981.
Ron Atkinson - appointed Jun 1981, sacked Nov 1986.
United sacked Dave Sexton in April 1981 (after a run of seven wins) and Atkinson replaced him as first choice after Lawrie McMenemy and Bobby Robson turned the job down...

share team duties with Ferguson while he himself has also become a director on the club's board. This season's first round elimination from the Cup Winners' Cup was a bitter disappointment and may have left him more amenable to fresh challenges...

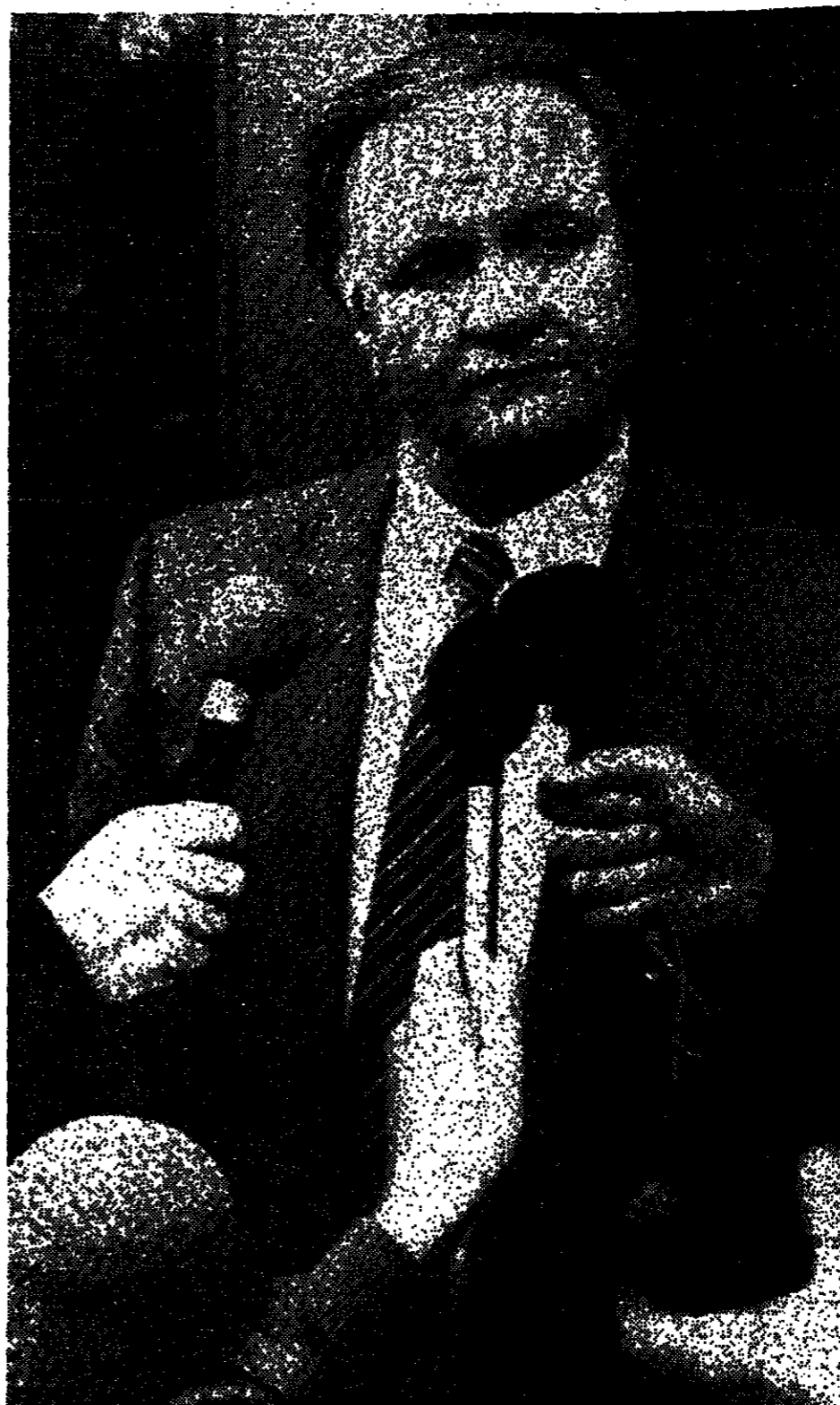
More football on page 34

that they would not poach each other's managers while they were under contract meant that United were always likely to look outside the League for a replacement.

In announcing the board's decision to terminate Atkinson's contract after five and a half years at Old Trafford, Edwards said that the decision was taken 'in the light of the team's poor performance over the last 12 months' and that it was 'in the best interests of the club and fans'.

to receive about £100,000 in compensation, said: 'Obviously I'm a bit disappointed. Things have gone against us so I suppose it was inevitable that this would eventually happen.'

A recent run of seven games without defeat was a misleading sign of improvement, a fact confirmed when Southampton knocked United out of the Littlewoods Cup on Tuesday by a humiliating 4-1 margin - the biggest defeat United had suffered since losing 5-1 to Watford in May, 1985...



Bowing out: Ron Atkinson at Old Trafford yesterday after his dismissal

High flyer who toppled off the tightrope

By Peter Ball

Ron Atkinson's tragedy, if there is any tragedy in his dismissal by Manchester United, is that he did not have the courage, in Arthur Miller's aphorism, to let himself be known.

who was then dominating them for Manchester City. If so, it was a profound misjudgement, for the fans who had never warmed to the reserved Sexton were no more sympathetic to his successor and their antipathy left him vulnerable as results slipped badly.

gelled with Atkinson's own preferences. He has always espoused attractive football and at West Bromwich and Old Trafford he put together teams to fulfil that desire.

Wednesday in April had ended their chances of winning the League, and he was believed by friends to be on the brink of resignation, he rejected that excuse when it was proffered by a reporter: 'It's not effing injuries!' he snapped.

The assumption is that he had no answer to what it was, although after that game he confessed that he could not understand how players could fail to give their all.



DO YOU HAVE A FLEET OF LIGHT VANS? THEN YOU NEED LEX VAN CONTRACTS

We are the only specialist company dedicated solely to the contract hire of light vans. And because we are specialists, we do it better and more efficiently than anybody else.

Form with fields for Name, Position, Company, Address, Telephone, Sign of Van Hire.

There is at least a partial truth in his friends' interpretation. A powerful journeyman player who captained Oxford United in their heady early days in the League, earning a reputation for tenacity and enthusiasm in the lower divisions, there was little in his background to deny that view, and his early success as manager of Cambridge United was built on solid worth.

Stairway to the Red Devils
Ron Atkinson, was born on March 18, 1939 in Liverpool. After being rejected by Wolves and Aston Villa, he established himself as a wing half at Southern League, Oxford United, just before the club joined the Football League in 1962.

BADMINTON Frost defeats Yu for place in semi-finals

Indonesia (AFP) - Morten Frost again got the better of Shanghai-born Sze Yu of Australia in a closely-fought game in Bandung yesterday to ensure himself a place in the World Cup semi-finals.

SQUASH RACKETS Robertson is troubled by youngster

Chris Robertson, normally a quicksilver player of inventive court presence, took an one-and-a-half hours to dismiss Umar Hyat Khan, a young Pakistani eight places behind his own 15th world ranking, at the World Open championship in Toulouse yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes).

Advertisement for 'LOCK INTO BIGGER SALES IN THE TIMES' featuring a car illustration and contact information.

Men of Harlech steal a march

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent
Most of those who view next year's inaugural rugby World Cup will do so via television. The rights are still being negotiated in some parts of the world, notably North America, but agreements have been concluded with the BBC in Britain...

Project floated six weeks ago

It is significant that the six companies who have agreed to take pictures from French television - RTV Wales, HTV West, TSW, Grampian, STV and Ulster - are all in areas with either a natural affinity with the game, or recent success, or both. If any of the big four of the independent companies, Yorkshire, Granada, Central and Thames, could be lured into involvement it would reduce costs to each independent company considerably.

Protecting the gates of clubs

HTV could have accepted the Eurovision version of the Toulouse match, complete with commentary from a New Zealander, but have decided to send their own team of Bob Symonds and Gerald Davies, plus a Welsh language team including Gareth Edwards, whose contract with the BBC has been concluded.